TUESDAY
May 12, 2026

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
18 Pages ₹ 6.00

# THE HINDU

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INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

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## 3 suspects arrested from U.P. and Bihar

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NEARBY

### Modi destroying dignity of PM's post, says CM

BENGALURU
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of destroying the dignity, seriousness, and propriety of the Prime Minister's post through his speeches "filled with lies, poor taste, hatred and jealousy".

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### New excise regime comes into effect

BENGALURU
The new excise regime, which taxes the quantum of alcohol in the bottle and calibrates it with the social cost, came into effect in Karnataka on Monday.

» PAGE 4

# India has sufficient stocks of fuel, commodities: govt.

Centre says no reason for panic buying, conservation efforts are only aimed at boosting long-term preparedness; Rajnath asks Ministries, States to implement PM's appeal on responsible use of fuels

**Saurabh Trivedi**
NEW DELHI

India faces no shortage of petroleum products and commodities despite the escalating conflict in West Asia, the fifth meeting of the Informal Group of Ministers (IGoM), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at Kartavya Bhavan in New Delhi, was informed on Monday.

According to the Ministry of Defence, India currently has 60 days of crude oil reserves, 60 days of natural gas and 45 days of LPG rolling stock, ensuring uninterrupted supply across the country.

India's foreign exchange reserves remain strong at $703 billion, while the country continues to meet domestic fuel demand in full despite global disruptions. The Centre highlighted that India was among the few nations where petroleum prices have remained stable even after more than 70 days of conflict-driven international volatility.

**Taking stock:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and others at the meeting of Informal Group of Ministers in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

In contrast, many countries have witnessed fuel price hikes ranging from 30% to 70%. However, Indian oil marketing companies are reportedly absorbing losses of nearly ₹1,000 crore daily, with under-recoveries touching almost ₹2 lakh crore in the first quarter of 2026, to protect citizens from rising international crude prices.

**Supply chain stable**

They were told that there was sufficient availability of essential commodities with no reason for public anxiety or panic buying. Supply chains remain stable, and conservation efforts were aimed at strengthening long-term preparedness if the crisis prolongs further, it added.

Mr. Singh directed Ministries and State governments to implement Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal for responsible fuel consumption and public participation.

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EDITORIAL
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# Opposition terms PM's austerity push 'admission of failure'

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Opposition parties on Monday sharply criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's suggestions to restrict fuel use, gold purchases and foreign tours, with the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, terming the appeals "proof of failure".

"Modi*ji* demanded sacrifices from the public yesterday – don't buy gold, don't go abroad, use less petrol, cut down on fertilizer and cooking oil, take the metro, work from home. These aren't sermons – these are proofs of failure," he said on X.

Over the past 12 years, the country has been brought to such a juncture that the public has to be told what to buy and what not, where to go and where not, he said. "The 'compromised PM' is no longer capable of running the country," he added.

> Modi*ji* demanded sacrifices – don't buy gold, don't go abroad, use less petrol, cut down on fertilizer and cooking oil, take the metro, work from home. These aren't sermons – these are proofs of failure
>
>
>
> RAHUL GANDHI
> Congress leader

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge asked why Mr. Modi was "engrossed" in poll campaigns and roadshows when his party had flagged these issues, arising out of the U.S. and Israel's attack on Iran.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

# Data show slip in foreign spending by Indian tourists

**T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan**
NEW DELHI

At a time when Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged Indians not to travel abroad and give up on foreign weddings for at least a year, official data show foreign spending by Indian tourists actually slid in the past two years.

In fact, an analysis of data from the Reserve Bank of India show the real growth in dollar outflow was coming from high-networth individuals (HNIs) investing in movable and immovable foreign assets, rather than from holiday-goers or those getting married in foreign locations.

Data on the expenditure under the Liberalised Remittances Scheme shows a total of $26.4 billion spent under this scheme in the first 11 months of 2025-26.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 11

# Will hear Trinamool pleas on SIR impact on Bengal polls: SC

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court assured Trinamool Congress leader Mamata Banerjee on Monday that it would examine her claims that lakhs of deletions made during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls "materially affected" the results in the Assembly election in West Bengal.

This is the first Supreme Court hearing in the Bengal SIR case after the election, which saw the Bharatiya Janata Party trounce the Trinamool Congress.

Appearing before a Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi, senior advocate Kalyan Bandhopadhyay, representing the former Chief Minister and other party leaders, said in as many as 31 seats, the victory margins of the BJP were less than the number of votes deleted during the Special Intensive Revision.

Mamata Banerjee

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

# GBA polls: SEC appeals to apex court for extension of deadline by 3 months

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Election Commission that had recently said civic polls in Bengaluru will be held between June 14 and 24, has now filed an application before the Supreme Court seeking extension of time till September 30 to hold the polls "in the interests of justice and equity".

It said GBA's request for extension of the deadline citing National Census-2024 and Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls is "*bona fide*".

The term of the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) council expired in September 2020 and there have been no elections since then. The Supreme Court had, in January 2026, set a June 30 deadline for the civic polls in the city. However, the Chief Commissioner, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), has sought extension of this deadline by three months citing Census and SIR both scheduled in April-May.

The SEC had recently said the civic polls in Bengaluru will be held between June 14 and 24.

The SEC, in its application before the apex court, said: "The concerns expressed by the State government authorities *prima facie* appear to be genuine as the Union government ordered Census, and SIR is occupying the entire time and logistics of the authorities who are also entrusted with the responsibilities of assisting the State Election Commission to conduct the elections. Hence, there is delay in holding the elections and the extension of time sought is *bona fide*."

"Due to the deployment of the manpower by the State government for the purpose of conducting Census, Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, etc., the required manpower and logistics may be unavailable with the State government. It is therefore, most humbly prayed that an additional 3 months' time may kindly be granted by this Hon'ble Court for concluding the elections," it further said.

However, the SEC repeatedly emphasised that they had taken measures to hold elections within the deadline. "It is submitted and reiterated again that the State Election Commission has taken proactive steps to conclude the elections as directed by this Hon'ble Court," the application said. The SEC further said it turned down request for more time by the GBA and the State government twice. It said the GBA Commissioner, who is also the District Election Officer for the city, requested extension of the deadline even during the May 8 consultative meeting.

# Stand-off continues as Trump rejects Iran's latest peace proposal

**Associated Press**
DUBAI

The U.S. and Iran were in a deepening stand-off on Monday after U.S. President Donald Trump rejected Tehran's latest offer to end the war.

Officials said the proposal included some concessions on its disputed nuclear programme.

The stalled diplomacy and recent exchanges of fire could tip West Asia back into open warfare and prolong the worldwide energy crisis sparked by the conflict, with Iran's chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz and U.S. blockade of Iranian ports still in place. Mr. Trump is expected to use a trip this week to China to urge President Xi Jinping to pressure Iran. Beijing is the biggest buyer of Iran's sanctioned crude oil, giving it leverage.

But the U.S. and Iran remain far apart on a host of issues. Mr. Trump has demanded a major rollback of Iran's nuclear activities, while Iran is pushing for a more limited agreement that would reopen the strait and lift the blockade ahead of further negotiations. Two regional officials said Iran has offered to dilute part of its highly enriched uranium and transport the rest to a third country. Russia has previously offered to take it.

TRUMP'S COMMENTS
» PAGE 12

# SC pauses recount tally; Raje Gowda stays as Sringeri MLA

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

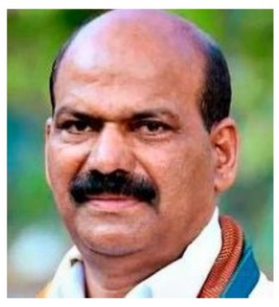
The Supreme Court on Monday provided interim relief to Congress leader T.D. Raje Gowda by allowing him to continue as MLA of the Sringeri Assembly Constituency in Karnataka for the time being.

Mr. Raje Gowda had appealed to the Supreme Court after a recount of postal ballots, following a High Court order that showed the numbers lean in favour of his rival, D.N. Jeevaraj, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate.

A Bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kumar ordered *status quo ante* while issuing notice to Mr. Jeevaraj and other respondents. The court listed the case for further hearing on May 21. In his petition, Mr. Raje Gowda, represented by senior advocates Kapil Sibal, Devadatt Kamat, and advocate Tushar Giri, argued that he was the "duly elected" Member of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly from the Sringeri constituency.

The petition said he had been declared as the returned candidate by a margin of 201 votes, with 279 postal ballots rejected, in the 2023 Assembly election. Mr. Jeevaraj had challenged the results in an election petition filed in the High Court.

Mr. Raje Gowda argued that the High Court had only allowed the election petition "in part", directing the "re-verification of the 279 rejected postal ballots and recounting of all postal ballots". This had brought his victory in the polls under a cloud despite there being "categorical findings rendered in his favour on every allegation of corrupt practice levelled against him", the Congress leader said.



T.D. Raje Gowda

The petition criticised the Returning Officer for pursuing a "completely illegal, arbitrary and unconstitutional exercise by conducting a de-novo or fresh reconsideration and re-verification of even the valid postal ballots received in favour of Mr. Raje Gowda". This was when the re-verification was only ordered to be limited to the rejected 279 postal ballots.

"There was neither any objection nor any pleading or discussion whatsoever in the entire order [of the High Court] regarding the validity of the 562 valid postal ballots cast in favour of the appellant (Mr. Raje Gowda)," the petition submitted.

The Returning Officer had deducted 255 postal votes cast in favour of Mr. Raje Gowda from out of the 569 postal votes earlier counted in his favour, and two postal votes had been deducted from the earlier 692 postal votes polled for Mr. Jeevaraj.

The court said that *prima facie* these actions exceeded the scope of what had been ordered by the High Court.

"As such steps are prima facie without a foundation, we are of the opinion that interference is required by this court... All steps taken in pursuance of the exercise undertaken by the Returning Officer shall remain in abeyance till the appeal is decided. Such order requires restoration of status quo ante and steps shall be taken to affect the same," the apex court ordered.

Mr. Jeevaraj has already taken oath as MLAas the certificate of victory was given to him by the Returning Officer..

# AIADMK legislators divided over support to Palaniswami

**T. Ramakrishnan**
CHENNAI

**While one group supports Edappadi K. Palaniswami, a larger group is throwing its weight behind S.P. Velumani**

All is not well in the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam after the recent election drubbing in Tamil Nadu, with the newly elected legislators sharply divided on electing their Legislature Party leader. While one group supports party general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami, a larger group is throwing its weight behind former Minister S.P. Velumani.

On Monday, after the swearing-in of all the legislators was over, a letter, purportedly signed by a group of legislators of the AIADMK stating that Mr. Palaniswami had been elected the Leader of the Legislature Party, was submitted to the Pro-tem Speaker M.V. Karuppaiah at his chamber. As per media reports, the general secretary got the backing of 17 of the 47 MLAs belonging to the AIADMK, though a member of the Palaniswami camp claimed it was 24. Former Handlooms Minister O.S. Manian, who handed over the letter to the Pro-tem Speaker, told *The Hindu* that he was not aware of the contents of the letter. "I did what I was asked to do," he said.

However, around 6 p.m., former Law Minister C.Ve. Shanmugam, accompanied by Mr. Velumani and many other former Ministers, including Natham R. Viswanathan and R. Kamaraj, came to the Speaker's office and presented a letter claiming the support of 30 MLAs for Mr. Velumani's leadership.

Mr. Palaniswami denied reports that the party was heading towards a split.

CONTINUED ON
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# The dressing room conundrum — a tight-rope walk

In team sports where, increasingly, there are as many members of the support staff as there are playing personnel, it is impossible to 'police' effectively; from Slapgate to vaping, the IPL has had its fair share of flashpoints, creating a bitter-sweet relationship

**R. Kaushik**

It's been a season to forget for Real Madrid, the Spanish giants who are doomed to finish a second consecutive year without a significant trophy. Sunday's 0-2 loss in the El Classico to Barcelona at Camp Nou confirmed their great rivals as the La Liga champions while Real have been left to pick up the pieces.

Among the pieces that need picking up are a major bust-up involving Aurelien Tchouameni and Federico Valverde. It wasn't just another bust-up, but an alleged physical coming together that sent the latter to hospital for treatment to a head injury and forced him to miss Sunday's encounter. The pair was fined 500,000 euros each by the club. It has been reported that they first got into an altercation during training on Wednesday, then continued their skirmishes the following day during and after practice. It was during a dressing-room showdown that Valverde picked up the head injury which he sought to downplay, saying, "I accidentally hit a table during the argument, causing a small cut on my forehead that required a routine visit to the hospital. At no point did my teammate hit me, and I didn't hit him either."

The players involved have subsequently apologised, acknowledging their errors and seeking forgiveness. Understandably, their shenanigans haven't endeared them to their fans, already smarting from a sub-par season, or their manager, Alvaro Arbeloa.

## Act of disloyalty

But while Arbeloa is unimpressed by their actions, he is even more incensed at how happenings within the confines of the dressing room made their way into public domain. "For things that happen in the dressing room to be leaked seems to me a betrayal and an act of disloyalty to this badge," he said. "I had a teammate who picked up a golf club and hit another with it. What happens in the Real Madrid dressing room should stay in the Real Madrid dressing room and that is what hurts me the most."

**The BCCI has been moved enough to dash off a comprehensive list of what is acceptable and what is not to the franchises within the last week**

One can relate to the angst of the Real manager. The dressing room in any sport is considered the players' sanctuary, a safe space where they can let off steam (sometimes quite literally, we shall come to that soon) and be themselves. Operating in high-pressure situations under extreme stress with the stakes incredibly and unforgivingly high, it is impossible for the protagonists not to feel the strain. They need an outlet, away from prying eyes, to release pent-up emotion, which is exactly why the dressing room is sacrosanct and out of bounds for those not directly involved with the team.

Sometimes, it becomes impossible to leave what happens in the changing room behind and continue with life as if all is hunky-dory, but that's another matter altogether. As for dressing room leaks, how does one stop that? Ultimately, it boils down to the integrity of each individual, their sense of right and wrong, and an empathy that has to be organic and inborn, not drilled through extraneous means.

Dressing-room secrets have a way of making their way into public space, no matter what. In team sports where, increasingly, there are as many members of the support staff as there are playing personnel, it is impossible to 'police' effectively. If someone wants to tell someone else not privy to the dressing room about the goings-on within closed doors, what can anyone do, really? Indian cricket itself is replete with tales of convenient and salacious 'leaks' and 'plants' that invariably tend to revolve around groupism, internal politics, about differences between players or between coaches and players, the works...

## The million-dollar question

How private should a dressing room be, one wonders. In the sense that when things happen inside a dressing room with glass walls and therefore in full public view, is it an encroachment on an individual/team's private space?

We are talking here about the Riyan Parag vaping incident within the confines of the Rajasthan Royals dressing room nearly a fortnight back, beamed to millions at home on live television after the camera inadvertently caught the Rajasthan skipper nonchalantly using the banned (by Indian authorities) device. Vaping, or the use of e-cigarettes, is illegal in India under The Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act (PECA) 2019. The Act prohibits the production, sale, purchase, import, export and advertisement of e-cigarettes/vapes in India, and violations can lead to imprisonment and hefty fines.

Furthermore, electronic devices – which is essentially what a vape is – including but not restricted to those with recording and communication capabilities are largely prohibited in the dressing room, necessitating all team members to deposit their cell phones with team managers on arrival at the ground. Which begs the question – how did Parag/someone else sneak a vape into the dressing room?

Then again, what's an IPL season without drama and controversy and debate and counterthrusts? The action on the field has been compelling as always, and sometimes unprecedentedly so – multiple 15-ball half-centuries by a 15-year-old (Vaibhav Sooryavanshi), an IPL record-equalling 13-ball half-ton by a relatively unknown domestic batter (Urvil Patel), a record score by an Indian batter (K.L. Rahul), the presence of a familiar name at the top of the wicket-taking leader-board (Bhuvneshwar Kumar).

As Season 19 hurtles towards the business end, the heat is only likely to increase. Already, two teams have been eliminated from the playoff race (Mumbai Indians and Lucknow Super Giants), while there is a logjam at the top and some early stragglers (former champions Chennai Super Kings and Kolkata Knight Riders) are making a spirited push to sneak into the top four. Every night holds the promise of a grand spectacle and most nights don't disappoint. The IPL, however dismissed in certain quarters, is an addictive commodity which sparks withdrawal symptoms every year immediately after its final act, which is scheduled this year for Sunday, May 31.

**Dressing-room secrets have a way of making their way into public space, no matter what**

Controversy and IPL seem forever to have gone hand-in-glove, starting from Slapgate featuring Harbhajan Singh and S. Sreesanth in 2008 to the ongoing edition where Rajasthan Royals, more than anyone else, have been in the spotlight for various reasons. For the right reasons when it comes to Sooryavanshi and Yashasvi Jaiswal and Jofra Archer and Donovan Ferreira, but not necessarily for only the right reasons, as the Parag vape and the unauthorised use of a cell phone in the team dugout by long-standing manager Romi Bhinder will testify.

Bhinder is no IPL novice. As team manager, he should be more aware than most of the dos and don'ts; primary among the latter is the use of mobile instruments. A month or so back, Bhinder was slapped with a fine of ₹1 lakh for contravening protocols and using his cell phone in the dugout. No matter what the provocation was, there can be no excuse for this blatant violation which surely deserved more than just a token slap on the wrist which, apart from the paltry fine, entailed an official warning.

Not long thereafter came the Parag vape. Like Bhinder, Parag too has been involved with the IPL for ages. The Guwahati-born all-rounder is only 24, but he is an IPL veteran, having been signed by Rajasthan ahead of the 2019 season. It wasn't until his sixth season with Rajasthan, in 2024, that he finally met the expectations of the leadership group, scoring a franchise-high 573 runs and 33 sixes.

Parag was rewarded not just with an India white-ball call-up but was also retained by Rajasthan for ₹14 crore and bestowed with the captaincy on a stand-in basis last year when Sanju Samson served initially as only an impact player before being ruled out with an abdominal strain.

With Samson being traded out to Chennai Super Kings ahead of IPL 2026, Parag became the full-time skipper, a recognition of his long association with the franchise and a show of faith because clearly, they have identified him as one to lead the fortunes of the side for the foreseeable future.

His supreme indifference to rules therefore is a little disturbing, given how much has been invested in him. Some have insisted that Parag's mistake was being seen as doing what he did more than what he did itself. This isn't a diatribe on morality, so we shall not venture into that territory (in any case, how many of us can truly cast the first stone?). What is in black-and-white is gross disregard for rules and laws, which must come with attendant penalties and act as a deterrent to those that might be inclined to indulge in such acts in public eye.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India prides itself on being a guardian of sorts, but it must ask itself if it has set the right example by slapping just a 25% match-fee fine and one demerit point sanction on Parag for breaching Article 2.21 of the IPL's Code of Conduct, which relates to 'conduct that brings the game into disrepute'. According to the board, this was a Level 1 (lowest grade) offence. Hmmm, you say...

Within a few days, another India international, Yuzvendra Chahal, was accidentally filmed vaping inside an aircraft, no less, by Arshdeep Singh, his Punjab Kings teammate who is prolific on social media with his (often humorous) vlogs. In March, leg-spinner Chahal revealed that he had been off alcohol for six months to boost his fitness and performance, earning plaudits for his honesty, discipline and commitment. And now this. Which raises a more alarming query: How did he manage to get the device into an aircraft despite the multiple levels of security checks at airports?

The BCCI has been moved enough to dash off a comprehensive list of what is acceptable and what is not to the franchises within the last week, with a specific focus on the entry of unauthorised individuals into the hotel rooms of players and support staff. Clearly, it is seized of the need for the IPL to not just be a tournament adhering to the highest standards of behaviour but also to be seen as precisely that. There will be infractions because that is but natural. How one responds to that and what deterrents are invoked become more relevant in such cases.

And oh, we agree with Arbeloa that what happens in the dressing room must stay in the dressing room. Unless the whole world has witnessed it, of course.

## THE GIST

- Controversy and IPL seem forever to have gone hand-in-glove, starting from Slapgate featuring Harbhajan and Sreesanth in 2008
- The BCCI has introduced a comprehensive list of what is acceptable and what is not to the franchises within the last week, with a specific focus on the entry of unauthorised individuals into the hotel rooms of players and support staff
- What is in black-and-white is gross disregard for rules and laws, which must come with attendant penalties and act as a deterrent to those that might be inclined to indulge in such acts in the public eye

9:00 AM
**ARRIVE**
Plug into your work momentum

10:00 AM
**WORK**
Lead, decide & build

1:00 PM
**RECHARGE**
Gourmet escapes at the mall

2:00 PM
**WORK**
Back to what moves the needle

4:00 PM
**PAUSE**
A quick meeting over an artisanal coffee

4:30 PM
**WORK**
Seal the deal at the conference

6:30 PM
**INDULGE**
Rejuvenate at The Great Hall

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## Police save five hotel workers from fire

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

In a swift action, the Hoysala patrolling staff rescued five hotel workers after a fire broke out at Durgashree Hotel in Nagarabhavi during the early hours of Friday under the limits of Kamakshipalya Police Station. The incident occurred around 1.52 a.m.

The police were alerted when a passerby noticed smoke and flames emerging from the hotel. Following the alert, Hoysala-86 personnel rushed to the spot within 11 minutes.

The police personnel, along with locals, entered the premises and safely rescued all five workers.

The victims were shifted to a nearby hospital in the Hoysala vehicle without waiting for an ambulance, ensuring timely medical treatment. Fire and Emergency Services personnel later brought the blaze under control, preventing further damage and possible casualties.

# State may roll out Labour Codes on July 1

One of the major changes that could come under the wage code is in the way housing rent is calculated while fixing minimum wages, say officials

**Rishita Khanna**
BENGALURU

Many unions have demanded that housing rent calculations under minimum wages be based on current rental rates in industrial areas. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Karnataka is expected to fully implement the four Labour Codes from July 1. One of the major changes that could come under the wage code is in the way housing rent is calculated while fixing minimum wages, according to officials.

At present, housing rent is calculated as 10% of food and clothing expenditure. However, trade unions, which are included in the Labour Codes, have called for it to be based on actual market rents in 'industrial' zones, if not in all regions.

The new framework will replace the 29 existing labour laws that currently deal with social security, working hours, retirement benefits and trade union rights. The Centre has already released the rules at the national level.

Many unions demanded that house rent calculations under minimum wages be based on current rental rates in industrial areas.

Union representatives pointed out that as Karnataka tracks the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for industrial workers across 16 centres, wage calculations should reflect the real rental conditions workers face in industrial clusters.

Trade unions have also demanded changes in the rules for recognising unions. They said that if more than one union is competing for recognition, the decision should be made through a secret ballot instead of physical membership verification to make the process transparent and fair.

Another key demand is to retain the existing provisions related to the right to strike. Trade unions argued that the current labour codes make the 'Right to Strike' difficult and could make most strikes illegal. "We have urged the State government to retain the existing provisions governing strikes," an AITUC member said.

According to the draft rules, a strike notice must be given to the employer and signed by the union secretary and five elected union representatives. Copies must also be sent to the conciliation officer, Labour Commissioner and the State government. The draft also says the notice should be backed by a resolution passed by a majority of workers who are union members.

**The new framework will replace 29 existing labour laws that currently deal with social security, working hours, retirement benefits and trade union rights**

After strong objections from trade unions, which argued that the draft rules mirror the Centre's framework without enough State-specific changes, the Labour Department formed four committees – one for each Labour Code – wages, social security, industrial relations, and occupational safety, health and working conditions (OSH) code. Trade union members told *The Hindu* that while Labour Minister Santosh Lad was open to hearing their suggestions, some labour department officials were inclined towards industry interests on issues such as housing rent and secret ballot provisions.

They said committees with union representation were formed after these concerns were raised with the Minister.

The unions also criticised the Centre's decision to remove the criteria for fixing minimum wages from the final rules, saying that these will be notified separately.

Additional Labour Commissioner G. Manjunath said four committees have been formed to review the four codes. He said trade unions had initially not given State-specific suggestions, but are now actively participating. He added that after the final review and considerations, Karnataka will notify its own rules.

## Temple priest kidnapped over brother's relationship

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Byadarahalli police have registered a kidnapping and assault case against three persons for allegedly abducting a 27-year-old temple priest.

Shivakumar was allegedly involved with a young woman, a relationship that faced strong objection from her family. The couple had reportedly left home following opposition. Investigators said the woman's father, Basavaraj, along with some relatives, targeted Shivakumar's elder brother, Kotresh.

Kotresh, who works as a priest at a temple in the Byadarahalli area, was abducted and taken to an undisclosed location. The police said the accused assaulted and forced Kotresh to issue a video appeal asking Shivakumar to return with the woman.

After the video surfaced, Kotresh's family approached the police. A case has been registered.

# After Kodagu assault case, State tightens rules for homestays

**Rishita Khanna**
BENGALURU

A file photo of Chikkamagaluru police visiting a resort in the district to check if the owner has implemented measures to ensure the safety of tourists. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Following the alleged sexual assault on a U.S. tourist at a Kodagu homestay, the Government of Karnataka has made police verification of staff mandatory for all homestays and bed-and-breakfast properties. Travellers, as per a recent circular, will be able to check whether a property is registered with local authorities before checking in.

Moreover, for police monitoring, all registered properties will be linked to the Karnataka Police Smart E-Beat system, to allow beat constables to make regular visits, verify guest records, and log their inspections through GPS-based tracking. District administrations have been told to form joint inspection teams with police and tourism officials to carry out surprise checks and identify unregistered properties operating illegally.

The government is planning to strengthen emergency response by linking registered properties directly to the 112 system to allow distress calls from these locations to be treated as priority tourist emergencies for quicker police response, officials told *The Hindu*.

The rules were updated following a recent incident where the victim had alleged that her drinks were laced with intoxicants by a homestay staff member who assaulted her. She had accused the homestay owner of attempting to suppress the incident and failing to help her in approaching the police.

As part of the new measures, every staff member working at these properties, including permanent and contract employees, will have to undergo background verification at the local police station. Property owners must keep these records ready, either physically or digitally, for inspection by police or tourism officials.

All Deputy Commissioners, tourism officials, police, and Women and Child Development departments have been directed to coordinate and implement the new rules, and submit a compliance report to the Tourism Department by May 15.

For properties hosting foreign tourists, owners and managers will be trained to correctly record and report guest details through the police-prescribed system, with random checks to ensure compliance.

As per a senior official, the Tourism Department will publish and regularly update an online list of all registered homestays and bed-and-breakfast properties in Karnataka for tourists to check. Travel agents, tour operators, and online booking platforms have been told to work only with registered properties, while non-compliant properties could be removed from listings until they meet the rules. These properties will have to display their registration certificates and licences at the entrance or reception so guests can easily check if the property is authorised to operate, according to a recent circular.

Emergency contact details, including 112, the national tourist helpline (1800111363 or on a short code 1363), women's helpline and child helpline numbers, along with details of the nearest hospital and local authorities, must be displayed at all properties. Hospitality staff will undergo training on gender sensitisation, the POSH Act, 2013 and the POCSO Act, 2012. Properties will have to display QR codes for the Karnataka State Police SOS mobile app, Tourism Department stated.

# Canara Bank posts 10% decline in Q4 net profit

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Hardeep Singh Ahluwalia, interim managing director and CEO of Canara Bank

Bengaluru-based lender Canara Bank on Monday reported a 9.9% decline in its fourth quarter net profit to ₹4,506 crore, as against ₹5,004 crore in the corresponding quarter a year ago.

This was mostly due to the decline in Non-Interest Income, drop in treasury income, compression in operating profit and increase in slippages (bad loans).

During Q4, the bank's slippage rose to ₹2,800 compared to some ₹1,899 crore in the sequential quarter. For the full year, the bank posted a net profit of ₹19,187 crore, as against ₹17,027 crore in the corresponding quarter a year ago. The bank's net interest income (NII) in the quarter increased 4% year-on-year to ₹9,808 crore from ₹9,442 crore.

Canara Bank's non-interest income during the quarter dropped 24% to ₹4,824 crore, mainly due to a sharp fall (72.7%) in treasury income, year-on-year, to ₹272 crore in Q4FY26. The bank's provisions also declined 31.3% to ₹2,252 crore in Q426 from ₹3,280 crore in the same quarter a year ago.

Canara Bank's savings account deposits in the quarter increased 8.73% year-on-year to ₹3,66,581 crore. However, current account deposits fell 20.06% to ₹62,223 crore. CASA (Current Account and Savings Account) deposits grew 3.3% to ₹4,28,804 crore.

The quarter also saw the bank's global business growing at 12.11%, global deposits up by 9.71%, and global advances rising by 15.30%, year-on-year.

For FY26, the bank's global business increased by 12.11% to ₹28,06,226 crore. Global deposit at ₹15,68,678 core marked a 9.71% growth. Global advances stood at ₹12,37,548 crore, grew by 15.30% growth year-on-year. Also, the domestic deposit of the bank stood at ₹14,36,905 crore, growing at 7.95% while domestic advances (gross) grew 15.12% to ₹11,61,143 crore.

According to Canara Bank, its Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) ratio improved to 1.84% as at March 2026, reduced from 2.08% as at December 2025, 2.94% as at March 2025. Also, Net Non-Performing Assets (NNPA) ratio improved to 0.43% as at March 2026 reduced from 0.45% as at December 2025, 0.70 % as at March 2025.

The bank said it also achieved targets in the Priority Sector at 43.71% and Agricultural Credit at 19.52% of ANBC as at March 2026, as against the norm of 40% and 18% respectively. The Board of Directors has recommended a final dividend of ₹4.20 per equity share (210%) for the financial year 2025-26.

**North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health & Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS), Shillong, Meghalaya.**

(An Autonomous Institute under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India)

**ADVERTISEMENT No. EST-II-RFACOFSEL/1/2025-Estt.II DATED 08.05.2026**

Applications are invited from Indian Citizens for filling up of the following Group 'A' Faculty Posts on Direct Recruitment failing which by Deputation/absorption basis on prescribed form by the Director, North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health & Medical Sciences, Shillong

| Sl. No. | Departments | No. of posts | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| - | - | Professor | Associate Professor | Assistant Professor |
| 1 | Anaesthesiology | - | 2 (1 OBC* & 1SC*) | 4 (2 OBC*, 1ST* & 1SC) |
| 2 | Biochemistry | - | - | 1UR |
| 3 | Cardiology | - | - | 1 UR |
| 4 | CTVS | 1 UR | - | 2 (1 OBC*& 1SC) |
| 5 | General Medicine | - | 2 (1UR, 1 OBC*) | 3 (1 EWS, 1 SC* & 1 OBC*) |
| 6 | General Surgery | - | 1 OBC* | 3 (1 OBC*, 1 SC* & 1UR) |
| 7 | Hospital Administration | - | - | 2 (1UR, 1 OBC*) |
| 8 | Medical Oncology | - | - | 3 (2 UR, 1 OBC*) |
| 9 | Microbiology | 1 UR | - | - |
| 10 | Nephrology | - | - | 1UR |
| 11 | Neurosurgery | - | - | 1 SC |
| 12 | Neurology | - | 1 UR | - |
| 13 | Nuclear Medicine | - | - | 2UR |
| 14 | Obstetrics & Gynaecology | 1UR** | 1UR | 1 OBC |
| 15 | Ophthalmology | - | 1 UR | - |
| 16 | Paediatrics | - | - | 1 OBC* |
| 17 | Pathology | - | - | 1 OBC* |
| 18 | Pain/Palliative | - | - | 2(UR) (Ipost reserved for VH) |
| 19 | Pharmacology | - | 1UR | - |
| 20 | Radiodiagnosis & Imaging | - | 2 (1UR, 10BC*) | 3 (1 OBC*,1SC* & 1UR) |
| 21 | Radiation Oncology | - | - | 1 SC* [post reserved for OH(OL)] |
| 22 | Surgical Oncology | - | - | 3 (2UR, 1 OBC*) |
| 23 | TB & Respiratory Disease | 1 UR | - | - |
| 24 | Transfusion Medicine & Blood Centre | - | - | 1UR |
| 25 | Urology | - | - | 1 OBC* [post reserved for OH (OL)] |
| | **Total** | **4** | **11** | **37** |

*** The number of vacant posts indicated above (including backlog reserved vacancies).**
**** For the post of Professor in department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, the post is to be filled up purely on Deputation Basis.**

**Pay Scale & Age:**

| Sl. No. | Post | Pay Level as per Pay Matrix | Age (as on last date of submission of application) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Professor | Level-14-A (Entry level pay Rs.159100/-) Plus NPA | 58 years |
| 2 | Associate Professor | Level-13-A1 (Entry level pay Rs.131400/-) Plus NPA | 50 years |
| 3 | Assistant Professor | Level-12 (Entry level pay Rs.101500/-) Plus NPA | |
| Plus other allowances as admissible under the Government of India Rules. NPA shall be given for medically qualified faculty only. | | | |

Application Fee: A non-refundable application fee is required to be paid by candidates in online/digital mode only at the link below:

**https://edu.easebuzz.in/register/NorthgugMT/recruitment services**

Any other mode of payment is not acceptable. Applications without the prescribed fee will not be considered and summarily rejected. The application fees applicable to various categories are as follow:-

| Sl. No. | Category of the Candidate | Application Fee |
|---|---|---|
| (a) | General/OBC/EWS | Rs. 500/- |
| (b) | SC/ST | Rs. 250/- |
| (c) | PwBD | Nil |

**For further details regarding prescribed application form, vacancies, pay scale, age, reservation, relaxation, essential qualification, experience, application fee, general information etc. of the advertisement are available on NEIGRIHMS, Shillong website http://neigrihms.gov.in. All the applicants are advised to keep visiting NEIGRIHMS, Shillong website on regular basis for any further updates.**

Interested eligible candidates are requested to email their applications in the prescribed form at **ar-esttii@neigrihms.gov.in** on or before the last date of submission of application.

Candidates are required to submit a sign copy of the original Application in the prescribed form along with attested copies of certificates (age, qualification, experience, Medical Council Registration, No Objection Certificate from present employer), one recent passport size photograph and Demand Draft in original by Speed Post to the **Director, North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health & Medical Sciences, Mawdiangdiang, Shillong-793 018.**

**Last date for submission of application is 45 days from the date of publication of the advertisement in the Employment News.**

For queries contact Establishment Section at Phone No. (0364) 2538020 or 2539215/217.

**CBC 17119/11/0006/2627** **Sd/- Director, NEIGRIHMS**

# Physical activity has stalled for 20 years, hurting health and climate

A series of new papers has recognised that physical activity is not just an individual choice, but is shaped by wider social factors such as gender and socioeconomic position; this perspective contrasts with earlier approaches that focused more on individual behaviour and biomedical outcomes

**T.V. Padma**

Physical activity levels naturally fluctuate across the lifespan for many reasons, including health, work, family responsibilities, and life transitions. DIBAKAR ROY/UNSPLASH

Global levels of physical activity remained unchanged despite policy recommendations and adoption over the last two decades, with large differences across gender and socio-economic groups, three new research reports have shown.

Current efforts to promote participation in physical activity are both insufficient and have made no dent, the reports say. Worldwide, more than five million deaths per year are attributed to physical inactivity. About one in three adults and eight in ten adolescents do not meet the World Health Organization's recommended activity guidelines, which is 150 minutes of moderately intense weekly physical activity for adults and 60 minutes daily for children.

Deborah Salvo, associate professor and Research Center Director at the University of Texas at Austin, and her colleagues analysed physical activity data from 68 countries worldwide and found persistent inequalities in the ways in which people across the world are active.

"We were not just interested in understanding the overall levels of total physical activity in countries, but rather, in how many people in each country are meeting physical activity guidelines through active leisure, active transport, and active labour," Dr. Salvo said.

"What we found is a huge disparity: the higher the country income level, the higher the percentage of the population getting their physical activity through active leisure. And the lower the country income level, the higher the proportion of individuals getting their physical activity from active labour and transport."

The findings have been reported in *Nature Medicine*.

## Active leisure gap

Dr. Salvo said that within countries, the team observed a large gap in terms of who gets to be active through leisure or free time – and "it is mostly wealthy men that do".

The most striking finding was the opportunity gap (of 40% points) worldwide for active leisure when contrasting wealthy men in wealthy countries with socio-economically disadvantaged women in poor countries.

The team's paper summarised decades of evidence to show that physical activity should not merely be part of obesity and cardiometabolic disease prevention and control agendas, as it also helps prevent and treat multiple cancers as well as depression, and boosts immunity.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, evidence emerged showing lower rates of infection, severe COVID-19, hospitalisation, and mortality due to COVID-19 among active individuals, she said.

"Despite all this, for some reason, doctors, public health professionals, policy makers, and the public at large seem to only discuss and promote physical activity within the context of a limited range of health conditions."

While physical activity is certainly very important to prevent and manage these conditions, it is so much more, and sometimes even health professionals do not harness or promote the totality of its benefits, she adds.

## Rich-poor divide

"The problem of inactivity globally is way worse than we think it is," according to Dr. Salvo. "We need to think more carefully about the sources of physical activity for a majority of people globally – 84% of the world's population lives in low- and middle-income countries – and their implications for whole health: physical, mental, societal."

The disparity between rich and low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) is again emphasised in another study, led by Erica Hinckson, professor of physical activity and urban health at the Auckland University of Technology in New Zealand, and colleagues in *Nature Health*.

Their study shows how physical activity can support climate mitigation and adaptation. They also outline how strategies that support walking, cycling, and public transport instead of driving may reduce emissions, and how climate change can disrupt activity because of extreme events such as heatwaves.

Additionally, they show how some physical activity initiatives can themselves contribute to emissions, and unintended consequences such as cities in an effort to make themselves more walkable displacing their own residents can occur.

The work points to several important gaps from LMICs, with much of the evidence linking physical activity and climate change still coming from high-income settings.

"So we know far less about how these relationships play out in LMIC contexts where the climate risks, urban conditions, and resource constraints may be very different," Dr. Hinckson says.

There is also limited evidence from LMICs on how physical activity initiatives can support both climate mitigation and adaptation in ways that are feasible, equitable, and locally relevant. For example, more research is needed on what works in informal settlements, rapidly urbanising areas, and places facing high exposure to heat, flooding, and air pollution.

Dr. Hinckson's team's work also shows that there is a need for more context-specific evidence that includes indigenous, local, and community knowledge rather than that relying too much on models and assumptions drawn from high-income countries.

"So the gap is not only about having fewer studies, it is also about needing research that better reflects LMIC realities, priorities, and solutions," Dr. Hinckson says.

The novelty of their paper, according to her, is that it brings environment, climate, and health together in a structured, integrated way. The four key messages are that physical inactivity and climate change are connected; physical activity initiatives are also climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives; equity, indigenous knowledge and community voice are essential to avoid unintended consequences when physical activity and climate change agendas are integrated; and that all major physical activity investments should be designed as climate-sensitive investments.

## Unclear end goals

In a second *Nature Health* paper, Andrea Ramírez Varela, assistant professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, and colleagues assessed 661 national policy documents to promote physical activity from 200 countries worldwide from 2004 to 2025. They found that although most countries have developed and adopted physical activity policies, the evidence of implementation remains limited. Just 38.7% (or 256) of the 661 policies analysed in the study assigned actions to three or more government sectors (including, for example, health and education), indicating a lack of cross-sectoral collaboration. Meanwhile, 26.5% (53) of countries with policy documents did not include measurable targets to determine their impact.

"This disconnect is significant because it challenges a common assumption in global health that once policies are developed and adopted, change will follow," Dr. Ramirez says. "In this case, the presence of written documents has not translated into implementation at scale."

> We must step away from trying to blame individuals for their levels of inactivity and turn to fix the systems that promote this type of behaviour in the first place
>
> **DEBORAH SALVO**
> Associate professor at University of Texas

Participants described four challenges: no clear consensus on whether physical activity should be an outcome in its own right or a means to broader goals; continued framing of physical activity as an individual health behaviour rather than a systems issue; fragmented leadership and accountability; and weak cross-sector alliances.

Her team's suggested framework includes movement across several domains of everyday life, such as leisure-time activities like sports and exercise, transportation-related activity such as walking or cycling. Physical activity can occur at different intensities, including moderate activities such as brisk walking or cycling and vigorous activities such as running or competitive sports.

According to Dr. Ramirez, many of the underlying challenges are also more pronounced in LMICs. These settings often face additional constraints such as limited institutional capacity, fewer resources dedicated to prevention, and competing policy priorities including infectious diseases and economic development. "Patterns of physical activity also differ in important ways. In many LMICs, physical activity is more commonly associated with transportation or occupational necessity rather than leisure or recreational exercise."

"These reports reaffirm the importance of physical activity for global health but also extend our understanding beyond the traditional focus on obesity and cardiometabolic disease," says Gregore Iven Mielke, a behavioural epidemiologist at the University of Queensland, Australia. They highlight that physical activity contributes to wellbeing in broader ways, including social and environmental dimensions.

## Infrastructure for physical activity

A major contribution of the series is the clear recognition that physical activity is not simply an individual choice, Dr. Mielke adds. Instead, it is shaped by wider social and structural factors such as gender, socioeconomic position, neighbourhood environments, and policy contexts. This perspective contrasts with earlier approaches that focused more heavily on individual behaviour and biomedical outcomes.

"In my point of view, by emphasising these broader determinants, the reports shift responsibility away from individuals and towards the societal systems that enable or constrain opportunities for movement, and shows a clear message that meaningful increases in physical activity require supportive environments, equitable access, and policy-level change rather than individual motivation alone," Dr. Mielke says.

While these studies offer an updated synthesis of the current state of physical activity research, some of the existing gaps are inherent to the data available to researchers, according to Dr. Mielke.

For example, the analyses of global inequalities in physical activity rely on data from 68 countries, which does not fully capture the diversity of global contexts and may underrepresent some groups of people: "This limitation highlights the need for greater investment in global surveillance systems so that future studies can draw on more comprehensive and truly representative datasets."

Systems-level solutions are required to address both the major socioeconomic and gender opportunity gaps for choice-based physical activity, according to Dr. Salvo. "We must step away from trying to blame individuals for their levels of inactivity and turn to fix the systems that promote this type of behaviour in the first place."

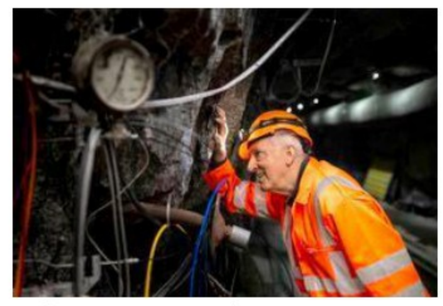
These include car-centric urban design, low investment in widespread infrastructure for physical activity, like parks and public open spaces, but also full sidewalk and protected bicycle lane coverage in cities, and excellent transit.

"Further, we must stop trying to push physical activity policy through health-centric approaches," Dr. Salvo adds. "Policy must be trans-sectoral, be properly funded, and have sufficiently ambitious and well-evaluated targets."

Key sectors to involve include urban planning and transport departments, parks and recreation, the environment, economic development, education, and of course, the sport and health sectors While the health sector can and should be a key partner for physical activity policy development and implementation, and healthcare providers can play a key role in elevating the totality of health benefits of physical activity when interacting with their patients, other sectors hold equal or likely more weight in how we are active in real life.

Physical activity naturally fluctuates across the lifespan for many reasons, including health, work, family responsibilities, and life transitions, adds Dr. Mielke. His team's research team has shown that people follow diverse physical activity trajectories across adulthood, and that meaningful health benefits can still be achieved even among those who were inactive for part of their lives but became active later on. This highlights the importance of creating opportunities for people to re-engage in physical activity at any stage of life, rather than assuming that early-life inactivity determines long-term outcomes.

*(T.V. Padma is a science journalist based in New Delhi. tvpadma_10@yahoo.co.in)*



Professor Domenico Giardini poses next to measuring instruments inside the BedrettoLab, located beneath the Swiss Alps. AFP

# *Scientists trigger 'controlled' earthquakes*

**Agence France Presse**

Researchers have made the ground shake in southern Switzerland, triggering thousands of tiny earthquakes in a monitored setting, as they seek to discover seismicity insights that could reduce risks.

"It was a success!" said Domenico Giardini, one of the lead researchers on the project, as he inspected a crack in the rock wall lining a narrow tunnel far below the Swiss Alps. Wearing a fluorescent orange jumpsuit and helmet, the geology professor said the goal was "to understand what happens at depth when the earth moves".

Dr. Giardini was standing in the BedrettoLab carved out in the middle of a narrow 5.2-km ventilation tunnel leading to the Furka railway tunnel.

Reached by specially adapted electric vehicles that slide through the darkness along concrete slabs laid over a muddy dirt floor, the deep underground laboratory is the ideal location to create and study earthquakes, Dr. Giardini said.

**Some 8,000 small seismic events were induced along the targeted fault, and along other faults running perpendicular to the main one, sparking local magnitudes from -5 to -0.14**

"It is perfect, because we have a kilometre and a half of mountain on top of us... and we can look very close at the faults, how they move, when they move, and we can make them move ourselves," he said.

Typically, researchers seeking to study earthquakes place sensors near known faults and wait.

In the BedrettoLab, by contrast, researchers filled a pre-selected fault with sensors and other instruments, and then sought to trigger movement.

For the experiment, dozens of scientists from across Europe spent four days in late April injecting 750 cubic metres of water into boreholes drilled into the tunnel's rock walls, aiming to provoke a magnitude-1 earthquake.

During the experiment, no people were in the tunnel for safety reasons, with everything managed remotely from the ETH Zurich lab in northern Switzerland.

"This is kind of pushing the frontier of science," said Ryan Schultz, a seismologist specialised in human-made earthquakes.

In the end, some 8,000 small seismic events were induced along the targeted fault, but also, along other faults running perpendicular to the main one, sparking local magnitudes ranging from -5 to -0.14. "We did not reach the target magnitude that we had set, but we reached just below," Dr. Giardini said. That alone was a huge success, he insisted, Although there had been previous efforts to create tiny earthquakes in lab settings, it was "never at this scale and never this deep".

The findings, he said, would help determine the best injection angles for reaching magnitude 1 at the BedrettoLab when researchers next give it a try in June. Magnitudes below zero are still palpable. Anyone standing near the fault during the largest triggered quakes, at -0.14, would have felt an acceleration of 1.5-times the standard acceleration due to gravity, Dr. Giardini said. They would have flown "in the air with a big jump", he said.

Nothing was felt at the surface, and Dr. Giardini stressed that by lubricating an existing fault, the team was adding only "about one percent of what is the natural risk". The experiment, he insisted, was completely "safe".

Dr. Giardini explained the importance of the research: "If we master how to produce quakes of a certain size, then we know how not to produce them."

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# Census 2027: Mapping crosses 45 lakh houses in GBA limits

Out of the 21,749 House Listing Blocks identified across GBA limits, mapping has been completed in 17,301 blocks, while enumeration is currently under way in 4,439 blocks

**Rishita Khanna**
BENGALURU

Over 45.42 lakh Census houses have been covered across the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) under the ongoing Census 2027 house-listing exercise as of 1 p.m. on May 11, according to the latest progress report accessed by *The Hindu*.

The House Listing and House Census (Phase 1), which covers 33 questions regarding household details, started on April 16 across Karnataka and will continue till May 15.

The enumeration exercise covers an estimated 51.86 lakh Census houses across the city, based on Bescom data. Of the total figures, 33.41 lakh 'households' have been covered so far. Each structure with an address is counted as a Census house, while a household is defined as a structure that has a kitchen.

Officials say that to ensure everyone is covered, enumerators have now started making visits between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. to cover locked or closed houses before marking them absent. FILE PHOTO

"The GBA has taken 3.5 persons as the average household size, based on which it is estimated that the survey has so far covered more than 1.16 crore people across the households enumerated," an official said.

Out of the 21,749 House Listing Blocks identified across GBA limits, mapping has been completed in 17,301 blocks, while enumeration is currently under way in 4,439 blocks. Nine blocks are yet to be taken up.

However, officials said the daily enumeration target has been changing as surveys were not carried out thoroughly across some blocks in the initial three days.

"During the first three days following the training, enumerators were instructed to visit every building, irrespective of the structure, and prepare a sketch to arrive at the exact number of structures. This forms the basis for identifying which are Census houses and which qualify as households, based on whether they have a common kitchen. However, the field survey was not carried out properly in many blocks. As a result, senior officials decided to rely on broader overestimated figures, including data drawn from Bescom electricity connections, to track progress," an official said.

**Corporation-wise Census coverage***

| Corporation | Total House Listing Blocks | Total estimated households** | Locked houses found | Total Census houses covered | Households covered |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Central | 3,486 | 6.97 lakh | 20,645 | 5.88 lakh | 3.94 lakh |
| North | 4,067 | 10.21 lakh | 25,304 | 9. 44 lakh | 7.06 lakh |
| South | 4,823 | 11.63 lakh | 33,568 | 9.69 lakh | 7.32 lakh |
| East | 3,619 | 8.71 lakh | 61,922 | 7.58 lakh | 5.27 lakh |
| West | 5,754 | 14.33 lakh | 25,052 | 12.81 lakh | 9.79 lakh |
| Total | 21,749 | 51.86 lakh | 1,66,500 | 45.42 lakh | 33.41 lakh |

*Includes details from the latest progress report (as of May 11, 1 p.m.) **Estimated households as per Bescom records

**Bescom data**

The official further noted that Bescom connection numbers cannot be treated as an exact measure of Census houses or households, as a single building may have multiple electricity meters, some connections may be inactive, and certain connections may correspond to commercial establishments or vacant properties. The data, therefore, serves only as a broad reference point for estimation rather than a precise Census count.

Among the five corporations, North Corporation has covered 9.44 lakh houses out of an estimated 10.21 lakh, with 7.06 lakh households surveyed. The West Corporation has covered 12.81 lakh houses out of 14.33 lakh, with 9.79 lakh households enumerated. In the East Corporation, 7.58 lakh houses have been covered out of 8.71 lakh, while 5.27 lakh households have been surveyed.

Some residents, meanwhile, told *The Hindu* that enumerators have not yet visited their areas. GBA officials, however, said this could be because the survey teams may have visited when residents were not at home.

They added that, to ensure everyone is covered, enumerators have now started making visits between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. to cover locked or closed houses before marking them absent.

**Latest progress report**

As per the latest progress report, field teams have identified 1.66 lakh locked houses, 5.55 lakh vacant properties, and 6.04 lakh structures being used for commercial or other non-residential purposes during the exercise.

# Deficit pre-monsoon rainfall in 11 districts

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Eleven districts in Karnataka, including Bengaluru Urban, received deficit pre-monsoon rainfall between March 1 and May 11.

According to the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre's (KSNDMC) district-wise pre-monsoon pattern-2026, during this period, Bengaluru Urban (-23%), Bengaluru South (-29%), Tumakuru (-21%), Chitradurga (-44%), Vijayanagar (-24%), Davangere (-25%), Hassan (-28%), Kodagu (-48%), Mysuru (-50%), Mandya (-42%) and Chamarajanagar (-39%) received deficit rainfall.

Rainfall is considered normal when it varies between +19% and -19%, deficient when it varies between -20% and -59%, large deficient when it is -60% or less, excess when it varies between +20% and +59%, and large excess when it is +60% and above.

Sixteen districts – Bengaluru Rural, Chickballapur, Kolar, Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Chikkamagaluru, Shivamogga, Uttara Kannada, Haveri, Ballari, Koppal, Bagalkot, Belagavi, Vijayapura, Yadgir, and Bidar – received normal rainfall.

While Bidar, Raichur, and Gadag received excess rainfall, Dharwad and Kalaburagi received large excess rainfall. The KSNDMC's taluk-wise data reveals that 11 taluks received large deficit rainfall, 99 taluks received deficit rainfall, 72 taluks received normal rainfall, 33 taluks received excess rainfall, and 21 taluks received large excess rainfall.

The summer has been intense, with a few districts in north-interior Karnataka recording a maximum temperature of more than 40°C on many occasions. In Bengaluru for instance, the temperature was above 35°C for most of April and even crossed the 36°C mark on many occasions.

On Monday, the IMD forecast said that there would be an increase in maximum temperature by 2-3°C in north-interior Karnataka during the next five days. "There will be no large change in maximum temperature in coastal Karnataka and south-interior Karnataka during next five days," IMD said.

The IMD has already stated that the 2026 south-west monsoon seasonal rainfall is expected to be below normal in most parts of the State. However, some regions in north-east and southeast-interior Karnataka are likely to receive normal to above-normal rainfall.

# GBA polls: DKS says 'new guarantees' for city tomorrow

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Monday said the government will announce "new guarantees" for Bengaluru, and details will be shared on Wednesday.

On May 1, Mr. Shivakumar announced that 'My Khata Drive' will be launched from May 16 and on every Saturday, khata melas will be organised across the city. Whether he was referring to the same or a new "guarantee scheme" to be announced is not yet clear.

This announcement comes a day after Mr. Shivakumar, who is also Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president, held a meeting with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary Randeep Surjewala, in charge of party affairs in the State, on Sunday. Mr. Shivakumar described it as a "political meeting".

The meeting discussed the legal proceedings over seeking a three-month extension to hold the GBA polls and also deliberated on election preparations if the Supreme Court does not extend the deadline and elections become inevitable by June 30. Mr. Shivakumar's announcement of a "new guarantee scheme for Bengaluru" comes in the wake of this, sources said.

A view of the Greater Bengaluru Authority building FILE PHOTO

While Mr. Siddaramaiah is keen on not delaying elections further, others, including Mr. Shivakumar, are said to be for a three-month extension. Many road work projects have come to a standstill over the non-availability of bitumen due to the West Asia crisis, and in such a situation, going to polls in June, just after the onset of the monsoon, will not augur well for the ruling party, sources said. Moreover, none of the parties has begun political activity on the ground, and a month wouldn't be enough, MLAs cutting across party lines feel, sources said.

The vexed question of leadership change in the State is also expected to come up after the Congress high command decides on the Chief Ministership in Kerala. While Mr. Siddaramaiah's faction has been batting for continuing him with a Cabinet reshuffle, Mr. Shivakumar has been pressing to be made Chief Minister. This question will be further postponed if Bengaluru elections are now announced, and their results will have a bearing on Mr. Shivakumar's claim for leadership, as he holds charge of both the party and Bengaluru, sources said.

A.S. Ponnanna, Legal Adviser to the Chief Minister, who was also part of the meeting, said that the legal proceedings pertaining to civic polls in Bengaluru were discussed. "It is difficult to hold civic polls by June 30 due to the National Census 2027 and Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. We will convince the court of the situation and seek an extension of three months," he said.

# Suburban rail project: Agreement with ICF for procurement of 153 metro coaches

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The highly anticipated Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP), which is set to relieve the city from traffic congestion, has gained significant momentum with the Bi-RIDE (Bengaluru Integrated Rail Infrastructure Development Enterprise Limited) officially issuing a work order to the Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai, to supply the 153 air-conditioned 'Broad-Gauge Metro Type Coaches' required for Corridor-2 and Corridor-4 of the project.

The total value of the work order is ₹1,513.75 crore. As per the contract awarded on May 6, the ICF must commence the supply of the coaches within the next 18 months. This deadline has been set with the objective of opening the Chikkabanawara-Yeshwanthpur section, which falls under Corridor-2, for public service on schedule.

**MoU to be signed**

Furthermore, Bi-RIDE has clarified that this is also in line with the timeline set by the Prime Minister during the 'PRAGATI' review meeting held in December 2025, and an official Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be signed between the two organisations shortly.

"This work order is a historic milestone for the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project. Through this partnership with ICF, we are ensuring that the required train coaches will be available by the time the track and systems infrastructure work for Corridors 2 and 4 is completed. This synchronisation will help deliver a world-class suburban rail network to the citizens of Bengaluru without any delay, fulfilling the vision of sustainable urban transport and easing the city's traffic congestion," said Laxman Singh, managing director, Bi-RIDE (K-RIDE).

# HC spares man from year-long jail term due to health status

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

In a rare instance, the High Court of Karnataka spared a septuagenarian from serving a one-year jail term for causing a person's death by rash driving during a test drive in Mysuru 14 years ago, converting the sentence to a day's punishment till the rise of the court after taking note of his failing health.

However, the High Court confirmed the findings of the trial and the appellate courts in Mysuru that the petitioner was guilty of the offences alleged against him.

Justice V. Srishananda passed the order while disposing of a petition filed by 78-year-old Syed Saifudden, a resident of Bannimantap, Mysuru, challenging his conviction for offences under Sections 279, 337, 338, and 304-A of the Indian Penal Code.

As the petitioner voluntarily offered to pay an additional compensation of ₹5 lakh, over and above the amount awarded by the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal to the legal heirs of the deceased, the High Court directed him to pay the sum by May 15, failing which he would have to undergo the one-year sentence imposed by the trial court in Mysuru.

Noting that the petitioner had been brought to court in a wheelchair by his son and was unable to move around without assistance for his day-to-day activities, the High Court said no useful purpose would be served in sending him to prison at his age and given his health condition.

The incident occurred on July 28, 2012, when Saifudden requested a test drive of a car from a local dealership. Two dealership employees brought the car to his residence. During the drive on the KRS Ring Road near Unnathi Nagar, Saifudden allegedly ignored repeated warnings from the two to slow down and accelerated to nearly 150 kmph, claiming he had 40 years of driving experience.

The speeding car hit a motorcycle. The pillion rider, Lakshmi, succumbed to injuries a few days later, while the rider survived with grievous injuries.

Saifudden's primary defence was one of mistaken identity, claiming that he was not driving the car. However, the trial court relied on consistent testimonies of the two dealership employees, who were seated in the rear, as well as an independent eyewitness who held that Saifudden was driving.

The court sentenced him to one year's imprisonment and imposed a fine of ₹5,000. His appeal was dismissed by the appellate sessions court in Mysuru, following which he approached the High Court.

# Two children charred to death in accidental fire

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Two children were killed after a temporary labour shed caught fire at K. Narayanapura near Kothanur in northeastern Bengaluru on Monday afternoon.

The deceased were identified as Arjun, 5, and Asha, 3, children of Durgappa and Savitri.

The family had reportedly moved to Bengaluru around four months ago for daily wage work and were residing in one of the over 10 labour sheds erected on a private land belonging to a person identified as Krishnamurthy.

According to the police, the children's parents had left for work around 9 a.m., leaving the siblings in the care of their grandmother.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the grandmother had briefly stepped away to use the washroom when the children entered a nearby shed to play. A fire broke out in the shed, although the cause has not yet been determined.

The police suspect that the children may have first suffered asphyxiation before sustaining burn injuries. One child died on the spot, while the other succumbed at the hospital.

The Kothanur police received information about the incident around 2 p.m. and rushed to the spot. Scene of Crime personnel and Bescom officials also inspected the site.

# NIA joins probe into recovery of explosives on Modi's convoy route

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has joined the probe into the recovery of explosive materials along the route planned for Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Bengaluru on Sunday.

The incident was reported within the limits of Kaggalipura Police Station, where security personnel conducting a routine route sanitisation allegedly discovered a suspicious plastic cover containing explosive substances near the Kanakapura Road stretch leading to the Art of Living campus.

According to the complaint filed by police constable Jagadish Doddamani of Kodihalli Police Station, the suspicious material was noticed during bandobast duty ahead of the Prime Minister's programme at Art of Living.

The complainant stated that he had reported for duty on Saturday and continued security deployment through the night. On Sunday morning around 7 a.m., he resumed duty in Sector-1A near a mud road adjacent to the forest area close to Kanakapura Road.

While conducting routine checks of suspicious persons, vehicles, and objects around 9.45 a.m., he allegedly noticed a suspicious ziplock plastic cover lying in a vacant area approximately 20 feet away from the roadside near the forest compound.

**'Six stick-like objects'**

Upon closer inspection, officials reportedly found a khaki-coloured cardboard box wrapped with tape inside the plastic cover. The box allegedly contained around six stick-like objects resembling gelatin sticks, along with wires, matchsticks, empty containers, and tape materials.

The constable immediately alerted senior officers, following which Deputy Superintendent of Police Om Prakash and other officials arrived at the spot and inspected the suspicious object.

Subsequently, the Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad (BDDS) and explosive disposal experts were informed.

A team led by Reserve Sub-Inspector Mohammed Aris reportedly reached the location around 10.15 a.m. and conducted an inspection until approximately 10.50 a.m.

During the preliminary examination, officials suspected the presence of explosive substances inside the package. Bomb disposal personnel later carried out further checks and secured the area.

A case has been registered at Kaggalipura Police Station under the Explosive Substances Act, and further investigation is under way.

**Possible security lapses**

Meanwhile, NIA officials visited the spot and collected preliminary information from Bengaluru South district police officers. Investigators are examining whether the explosive materials were intentionally placed to target the Prime Minister's convoy route or a larger conspiracy was behind the incident.

Senior officials are reviewing possible security lapses and analysing CCTV footage and local intelligence inputs.

**Timings**
**BENGALURU**

| | |
|---|---|
| TUESDAY, MAY. 12 | |
| RISE 05:55 | SET 18:37 |
| RISE 02:08 | SET 14:22 |
| WEDNESDAY, MAY. 13 | |
| RISE 05:55 | SET 18:37 |
| RISE 02:47 | SET 15:15 |
| THURSDAY, MAY. 14 | |
| RISE 05:55 | SET 18:37 |
| RISE 03:29 | SET 16:11 |

| Bengaluru Weather | max | min |
|---|---|---|
| Tumakuru | 34 | 15 |
| Mysuru | 35 | 22 |
| Bengaluru | 32 | 22 |

**Bengaluru Today**
**33°C** The weather will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower at few places.

**Bengaluru Tomorrow**
**34°C** Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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# Text&Context

THE HINDU

## NEWS IN NUMBERS

### Percentage surge in China's passenger car exports in April

**85** per cent. China's exports of passenger cars surged in April, an industry group said on Monday, as its carmakers push to expand in overseas markets as domestic sales continue to fall. Exports of passenger cars from China last month jumped almost 85% from a year ago to around 7,96,000 vehicles, as per the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers. PTI

### Solar power added by India in 2025 to its total installed capacity

**44** gigawatts. India added a record 44 gigawatts of solar capacity in 2025, pushing the total installed capacity in the country to 150 gigawatts, the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has highlighted in reply to a Thane-based NGO. Major programmes like PM Surya Ghar, and the Production Linked Incentive scheme have driven this growth, the Ministry said. PTI

### Percentage decline in equity-based Mutual Funds inflow in April

**5** per cent. Equity-oriented mutual fund schemes witnessed a net inflow of ₹38,440 crore in April, marking a 5% decline from the preceding month, according to data released by industry body Amfi on Monday. Moreover, monthly contributions through SIPs (systematic investment plans) declined to ₹31,115 crore last month from ₹32,087 crore recorded in March. PTI

### Sudan civilians killed in drone hits between January and April

**880** At least 880 civilians were killed in drone strikes in Sudan between January and April this year, the UN said on Monday, warning of a "new, even deadlier phase" in the ongoing conflict. Drone attacks by both the Army and paramilitary group Rapid Support Forces, which have been at war since 2023, have intensified in recent months. AFP

### Number of countries interested in drone deals with Ukraine

**20** Nearly 20 countries are interested in drone deals with Ukraine and four agreements have already been signed, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Monday. Since the outbreak of the West Asia war in February, Mr. Zelenskyy has managed to leverage Ukraine's expertise in drone warfare into a series of successful diplomatic deals. REUTERS

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# A decentralised solution for waste crisis

The Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, disregard federalism and embody a technocratic vision of environmental governance, insufficiently attentive to ground realities; as framed, they risk producing blurred accountability, unproductive compliance work, and paper reporting rather than cleaner cities and villages

EXPLAINER

K. Ashok Vardhan Shetty

India's waste crisis is no longer a localised urban nuisance but a national ecological emergency. Our cities are choking on waste; plastic-clogged drains worsen monsoon flooding; landfills have become mountains of methane, fire, and leachate; open burning of waste materials fouls the air; and rivers and coasts bear the burden of urban negligence. Rural India, too, is scarred by plastic, sanitary waste, pesticide containers, e-waste, and the debris of packaged consumption. A new waste-management framework was essential in this scenario.

The Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, notified in supersession of the 2016 Rules and brought into effect from April 1, 2026, are animated by a legitimate and urgent environmental purpose. They seek to improve source segregation, regulate bulk waste generators, promote scientific processing, reduce dependence on landfills, remediate legacy dumpsites, promote a circular economy, and move towards digital monitoring. These are worthy aims. But sound environmental intent does not, by itself, ensure sound administrative design.

**Choking dilemma:** An aerial view shows a landfill next to a lake swathed in water hyacinth in Bengaluru on April 15. AFP

### Treaty power and federal balance

The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, under which these Rules are framed, was enacted principally under Article 253 of the Constitution, which empowers Parliament to implement international obligations – in this case, the 1972 Stockholm Declaration. This gives Parliament wide reach: even subjects touching State or local domains – land, water, public health, agriculture, sanitation or local government – may be legislated upon if linked to an international obligation. But a power meant to secure minimum national standards should not become a licence for the Centre to occupy the field, erode State competence, or centralise administration. A national floor must not become an operational blueprint for every State and local body.

Mature federations follow subsidiarity: governmental functions should be performed at the lowest level capable of discharging them effectively, and moved upward only when that level demonstrably lacks capacity. Local competence is presumed; higher-level intervention must be justified. Authority is most effective when closest to knowledge, consequences, and accountability.

India often reverses this logic. It presumes central competence, distrusts sub-national capacity, and reduces States and local bodies to implementing instruments. Nobel Laureate F.A. Hayek's "knowledge problem", explained in *The Use of Knowledge in Society* (1945), is apposite: effective decisions depend on dispersed and contextual knowledge of the "particular circumstances of time and place". Such knowledge cannot be transmitted upward without distortion or delay. No authority in New Delhi, however well-intentioned, can tailor waste policy with equal fidelity to every region's ecology, settlement pattern, or administrative and fiscal capacity.

### The Centralisation Reflex

Although the draft Rules were published on December 14, 2024, inviting objections and suggestions from the public, the deeper flaw lies in a familiar pathology of Indian governance: the belief that centralisation and over-regulation can cure administrative weakness, and that New Delhi must design and command while States merely execute. Its unstated premise is the incapacity argument – that States lack administrative or technical competence and therefore require Centre's supervision, if not substitution. To treat Indian States, several of which rival major nation-states in population, diversity, and complexity, as inherently incapable is incompatible with national self-respect and a calumny no patriot should tolerate.

As Nobel Laureate Kenneth Arrow pointed out in *The Economic Implications of Learning by Doing* (1962), capacity is not conferred from above; it is built through decision-making, experimentation, feedback, and correction. When States are reduced to mere implementing agencies for centrally-designed rules and schemes, their expertise atrophies, replaced by a culture of compliance and dependence on "instructions from New Delhi."

Local government is a State subject. Solid waste management lies at the intersection of environment, sanitation, public health, land use, and urban and rural local administration. It is among the most localised functions of governance, depending on household behaviour, street-level collection, informal waste workers, ward monitoring, land for composting, user charges, recycling markets, and citizen trust.

A system suited to a resource-rich metropolis like Mumbai cannot be mechanically applied to a Himalayan pilgrimage town with narrow roads and fragile slopes, an island settlement with scarce land, a coastal panchayat facing tidal flooding and marine litter, or a scattered tribal hamlet where low-density habitation makes collection and transport costly. Precisely for that reason, solid waste management requires a differentiated, federal design.

The extension of the Rules to rural local bodies is understandable; rural waste is now a real problem. But treating a gram panchayat as a miniature municipality is administrative fantasy. Most panchayats lack adequate staff let alone sanitation engineers, waste-collection vehicles, digital capacity for complex reporting, or the fiscal base to manage four-stream segregation. The Rules also bring rural areas within a Material Recovery Facility (MRF)-linked architecture. But expecting rural local bodies to sustain such a framework betrays a disconnect with ground realities.

A realistic rural regime should have emphasised gram sabha-based awareness, household and community composting, periodic collection of plastics and sanitary waste, simple quarterly reporting, and cluster-level dry-waste aggregation and processing with nearby urban local bodies. Megacities (such as Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, and Chennai with population exceeding one crore) and metropolitan cities (population exceeding ten lakhs) require the opposite approach: not simplified compliance, but stronger institutions. They need Metropolitan Waste Management Authorities with elected local representation, State participation, technical expertise, and citizen oversight.

The rollout, too, should have been phased. Full compliance could have begun with megacities and metropolitan cities, where waste volumes and administrative capacity are greatest. Other municipal corporations and large municipalities, including tourist and pilgrimage towns, could have followed; then medium and small towns; and finally rural areas through simplified models.

### States as policy laboratories

In *New State Ice Co. v. Liebmann* (1932), Justice Louis Brandeis of the U.S. Supreme Court famously observed that a State may serve as a "laboratory" for novel social and economic experiments. That is the strength of federalism: experimentation is safer when localised, and learning is faster when multiple governments test different solutions. States can try policies at manageable scale, contain failures, and allow successful models to diffuse horizontally or be adopted nationally.

A better course therefore would have been to allow States to frame their own solid waste management rules for at least five years, subject to minimum national norms. One State might pioneer decentralised composting through women's self-help groups. Another might integrate informal waste workers into cooperatives. A third might build cluster-based facilities for small towns. A fourth might create metropolitan waste authorities. A fifth might regulate tourist waste through user fees. After five years, the Centre could review outcomes, identify and disseminate best practices, and revise baseline standards, if necessary, based on evidence rather than assumption. The 2026 Rules do require States to prepare policies and strategies for urban and rural solid waste management, but this is more for form's sake because policy within a centrally-prescribed rulebook is not the same as State-led regulatory design.

### Other concerns

The centralised online portal raises a further federal concern. The Rules require reporting to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), data audits, report uploads, and centralised formats and modules. States and local bodies risk becoming data suppliers rather than co-owners of the governance system. Too often, officials spend more time feeding dashboards than improving service delivery. Compliance becomes reporting upward rather than governing outward. A better design would treat the portal as a shared federal data platform, allowing States and local bodies to add indicators, customise dashboards, access raw data, and publish ward-level, local-language information for citizens. Data should build capacity, not merely discipline sub-national governments.

The Rules also need stronger democratic content. Waste management succeeds only when citizens participate. Rural India has, at least in principle, the gram sabha; urban India has no satisfactory equivalent. Periodic waste reports should be submitted to municipal councils and ward committees, not merely uploaded for bureaucratic review in New Delhi.

The 2026 Rules substantially expand the obligations of municipalities and panchayats. Unless backed by predictable, adequate, and formula-based finance, they risk becoming yet another set of underfunded mandates – producing selective compliance, inflated reporting, or quiet evasion rather than genuine waste-management reform.

Under the present model, the likely trajectory is predictable. Sooner or later, a public interest litigation may allege non-implementation by States and local bodies, ignoring the reality that they cannot implement underfunded, top-down mandates in whose design they had little role. The Supreme Court may then treat the matter as legal non-compliance and begin continuing mandamus, drawing all levels of government into prolonged litigation, affidavits, and directions. What began as environmental reform may end as judicialised administration.

### Concluding remarks

The Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, disregard federalism, local democracy, and subsidiarity. They embody a technocratic vision of environmental governance, insufficiently attentive to ground realities, institutional weaknesses, and local capacity. As framed, they risk producing blurred accountability, unproductive compliance work, and paper reporting rather than cleaner cities and villages.

To succeed, the Rules must be recast around five principles: minimum national standards, State flexibility, empowered local bodies, predictable finance, and citizen accountability. Otherwise, mountains of waste will continue to rise as monuments to centralised ambition and local neglect.

### THE GIST

- Solid waste management lies at the intersection of environment, sanitation, public health, land use, and urban and rural local administration and is among the most localised functions of governance
- The Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, notified in supersession of the 2016 Rules and brought into effect from April 1, 2026, are animated by a legitimate and urgent environmental purpose
- However, the deeper flaw in the new Rules lies in the belief that centralisation and over-regulation can cure administrative weakness
- A system suited to a resource-rich metropolis like Mumbai cannot be mechanically applied to a Himalayan pilgrimage town with narrow roads and fragile slopes. Precisely for this reason, solid waste management requires a differentiated, federal design

## ‘Explain to people why fuel and gold prices have risen’

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Taking a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for advising Indians to not buy jewellery for the next one year and reduce fuel consumption, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Monday urged Mr. Modi to reveal who was responsible for the price rise in fuel and gold.

“The Prime Minister, who has advised people not to buy gold and reduce fuel consumption, should also explain why the prices have risen and who is responsible for it,” the Deputy Chief Minister told pressmen here, adding, “Can you ask people celebrating weddings not to buy gold? He only gives advice. During COVID-19, he asked people to light lamps and clap. Did that solve problems? During hardship or happiness, people take loans against gold.”

On the use of public transport, Mr. Shivakumar said that the Prime Minister should first ask Union government officials to travel by public transport. “Let him instruct his own Cabinet Ministers in this regard. Let the sacrifice first begin with Central Ministers, Union government officials, officials in BJP-governed States, their party legislators, leaders, and workers. Then let them advise others to sacrifice,” he remarked.

# CM accuses Modi of destroying dignity of Prime Minister’s post

He says PM’s speeches are ‘filled with lies, poor taste, hatred and jealousy’; asks Modi to check before making allegations

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of destroying the dignity, seriousness, and propriety of the Prime Minister’s post through his speeches “filled with lies, poor taste, hatred and jealousy”, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday asked Mr. Modi to come with some preparations before making allegations, as false statements do not befit the Prime Minister.

“Mr. Modi must clarify whether his speech in Bengaluru was delivered as the Prime Minister of the country or as the State BJP president or as the Leader of Opposition. His remarks reflected the failure of his own government at the Centre and helplessness in being unable to correct the poor condition of his party in Karnataka,” Mr. Siddaramaiah said, hitting back at the Prime Minister on X. He took a dig at the Prime Minister by saying that Mr. Modi appeared to still be in the hangover of the election rallies in five States.

The Chief Minister’s counter-attack at Mr. Modi came after the latter on Sunday accused the Congress of betraying the DMK in its greed for power. The Prime Minister had also accused the Congress government in Karnataka of spending more time addressing internal strife than addressing people’s problems.

> The BJP has deteriorated to such an extent that it is now falling at the feet of leaders who are suspended by the party
> **SIDDARAMAIAH**
> Chief Minister

Providing statistics on Karnataka’s economy under Congress, Mr. Siddaramaiah urged the Prime Minister: “Next time you make allegations against our government, please come with some preparation. False statements do not befit the Prime Minister.”

Turning his attention on the BJP State unit, the Chief Minister said, “There are half a dozen factions opposing former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa and his family. Though leaders of these factions have made hundreds of allegations against Mr. Yediyurappa, the so-called leader (Mr. Modi) with a 56-inch chest does not have the courage to take disciplinary action against them. The words of the State BJP president carry no value.”

He further said, “The BJP has deteriorated to such an extent that it is now falling at the feet of leaders who are suspended by the party and bringing them back for election campaigning.”

**Regarding betrayal**

On the Prime Minister’s remark on betrayal by the Congress, Mr. Siddaramaiah said, “Had Mr. Modi remembered the history of betrayal by his own party, he would certainly not have accused the Congress of betrayal. The list of regional parties that allied with the BJP and were later betrayed continues to grow. The list of Opposition leaders who were blackmailed into betraying their own parties and joining BJP is also growing.”

Mr. Siddaramaiah said that the Prime Minister, who had patted himself for eradicating poverty, is now pleading with people not to buy gold, avoid foreign travel, and reduce consumption of edible oil and fuel. The Chief Minister questioned, “What kind of development is this? People of this country are mature enough to understand that the hardships they are facing in their daily lives with petrol, diesel, cooking gas, and edible oil becoming costlier is the result of the country’s confused foreign policy. Whom will you blame for this failure? Jawaharlal Nehru? The Congress?”

## CM is unsettled by PM’s remarks: BJP

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Taking serious exception to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of belittling the Prime Ministerial post by making political remarks on the Congress government, the Opposition BJP in Karnataka on Monday maintained that the Prime Minister’s speech had clearly unsettled him.

“The PM’s speech has clearly unsettled you because he spoke what seven crore Kannadigas are feeling every single day about the power-sharing circus and constant infighting that has paralysed your government from day one,” Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok told the Chief Minister in a social media post.

Maintaining that the Prime Minister was addressing a party programme when he made such remarks, Mr. Ashok further stated: “First of all, Sunday’s event at HAL Airport was not a government function. It was a BJP State unit programme organised by lakhs of dedicated karyakartas to celebrate the historic victories in West Bengal, Assam and Puducherry. At a political event, the Prime Minister has every democratic right to make political remarks.”

Under the new excise regime, certain premium labels could become cheaper. FILE PHOTO

# New excise regime comes into effect; lower-end liquor set to get costlier

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

**The latest price after the changes is likely to be known by Tuesday as many manufacturers could not complete the formality on Monday**

With the new excise regime, which taxes the quantum of alcohol in the bottle and calibrates it with the social cost, coming into effect on Monday, the lower-end liquor in the State is set to become dearer while certain premium labels could get cheaper.

The latest price after the changes is likely to be known by Tuesday as many manufacturers could not complete the formality on Monday. However, some whisky, bourbon whiskey, beer, gin, brandy, vodka and liqueur labels – in both premium and mass market segments – with marginal changes in price have been notified to be effective from Tuesday.

**Prices to be revised**

The new policy, set to discourage consumption of liquor with high alcohol content, is estimated to increase the sales of cheaper drinks that have high alcohol content by about 15% to 20% this year, and the prices will be revised over the next three to four years. The premium drinks that have low alcohol content will be taxed lower. The high alcohol content Indian Made Liquor (IML) which is consumed by the lower strata brings more than 70% excise revenue to the exchequer.

A number of manufacturers are yet to make a formal declaration of price and ‘Alcohol in Beverage’, and the Karnataka State Beverage Corporation Ltd. (KSBCL), through which liquor is distributed, did not sell any IML or beer on Monday. Sources said that only a small quantum of wine and low-alcohol beverages were distributed on Monday.

**Price calculation**

KSBCL sources said that the prices will be automatically calculated once the price band in which the producer wants to place his product is made known along with the alcohol, the excise duty, and additional excise duty.

“There will be no manual intervention. Every millilitre of pure alcohol in the liquor will be taxed,” they said.

The policy, which reduces the complicated slab system to eight from the earlier 16, is based on the recommendations of the K.P. Krishnan-headed Resource Mobilisation Committee for Excise Reforms, and calibrates the price of liquor in the State with the social cost, including the cost incurred on medical treatment in public health centres, consequences of accidents committed by those under the influence of alcohol, and domestic violence.

The social cost was ₹1,200 per litre of alcohol in 2024-25. It is estimated to increase to about ₹2,000 per litre in 2028-29. The lower-end, high alcohol-content liquor will become expensive under this new calculation.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, and Speaker U.T. Khader attending the funeral of Minister D. Sudhakar in Chitradurga district on Monday.

## D. Sudhakar’s mortal remains cremated

**The Hindu Bureau**
SHIVAMOGGA

The mortal remains of Planning and Statistics Minister D. Sudhakar, who passed away on Sunday, were cremated with State honours at the Jain Mukthidham on Pavagada Road at Challakere in Chitradurga district on Monday.

Among those who paid their last respects to the departed people’s representative included Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, AICC general secretary Randeep Surjewala, and members of the State Cabinet.

Hundreds of people from Hiriyur and Challakere took part in the procession carrying his mortal remains in the city.

At the Mukthidham, family members performed the final rites according to Jain traditions. The Chief Minister presented the national flag to Sudhakar’s wife, Harshini Sudhakar.

# Search is ‘person-centric’, not ‘premises-centric’, under I-T Act: HC

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has ruled that a “search operation” under the Income Tax Act (I-T Act) is fundamentally “person-centric”, not “premises-centric”, and the identity of the “searched person” is to be determined with reference to the person against whom satisfaction for “search” is recorded, and not with reference to the ownership of the premises searched.

A Division Bench comprising Justice S.G. Pandit and Justice K.V. Aravind gave this finding while allowing an appeal filed by the Income Tax Department against a 2025 judgment of a single judge, who had held that when a premises belonging to a person is searched, that person should be treated as a “searched person” under Section 153A instead of an “other person” under Section 153C.

**The case originated from a search conducted in September 2017 at the residence of one Ram Mohan Raju**

The case originated from a search conducted in September 2017 at the residence of one Ram Mohan Raju, based on a warrant of authorisation issued in the name of one K. Narayan Raju. The tax authorities had reason to suspect that documents belonging to Mr. Narayan Raju were kept on Mr. Ram Mohan Raju’s premises. Since documents belonging to the former were found on the premises of the latter, the department had proceeded under Section 153C, which governs the assessment of a person whose assets or documents were found during a search of “another person”.

Mr. Ram Mohan Raju challenged the notice issued under Section 153C, arguing that since his own house was physically searched, he should be treated as the “searched person” and proceedings should have been initiated under Section 153A, which would offer him different procedural advantages. The single judge had agreed with this contention while quashing the notices.

Overturning the single judge’s order, the Bench, upon a detailed analysis of various provisions of the I-T Act, said that the expression “searched person” refers only to the individual against whom authorities recorded “reason to believe” under Section 132(1)(a) to (c) to conduct the search. Merely because a third party’s premises were searched as part of a search operation would not make that person a “searched person” under the Act, the Bench clarified.

“The procedure under Section 153A of the Act is confined to the person against whom a search is initiated within the meaning of Section 132. Proceedings against any other person (connected to searched person) on whose premises a search is conducted or from whom material is seized, can be initiated only under Section 153C, subject to satisfaction of the statutory conditions,” the Bench further clarified.

**BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION**
Office of the Executive Engineer (MP&CS),
Old Madras Road, K.R. Puram, Bengaluru - 560036.

No: BECC/PR/EE(MP&CS)/03/2025-26 Date: 11-05-2026

**INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER**
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer (MP&CS), BECC, Bengaluru invites Tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BBMP, GBA or BECC or equivalent registration with KPWD / CPWD / BWSSB / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the Service detailed below.

| Sl. No. | Name of the Work |
|---|---|
| 1 | Restoration of Road Cutting Works in Bengaluru East City Corporation Limits. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 300.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 4,50,000/-** |

**Calendar of Events:** **1)** The Tender Documents can be Downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 13-05-2026. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **16-05-2026 at 15.00 Hours in the Office of the Executive Engineer (MP&CS), K.R. Puram, Bengaluru - 560036. 3)** Last Date for Submission of Tender Documents: **21-05-2026 before 16.00 Hours. 4)** Technical Bids will be Opened on the Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in at the Office of the Executive Engineer (MP&CS) on 22-05-2026 at 11.30 Hours onwards.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (MP&CS), BECC.

Government of Odisha
**Sports & Youth Services Department**
Kalinga Stadium, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751012
e-mail : deptsportsodisha@gmail.com

**Request for Proposal (RFP)**

**No. PT2-SYS-YS-YS-0017-2026-16012/SYS, dated:11.05.2026**

The Sports & Youth Services Department, Government of Odisha invites bids from leading agencies through Request for Proposal (RFP) for engagement of an Event Management Agency in connection with the observance of the **State-Level International Day of Yoga (IDY)-2026** scheduled to be held at **Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar** on **21st June 2026.**

The detailed bid document, including eligibility criteria, scope of work, timelines, and terms & conditions, is available on the websites mentioned below :

Website:**https://tendersodisha.gov.in** and **https://sports.odisha.gov.in** .

Interested firms/agencies are advised to study the RFP document carefully before submitting their bid.

**Important dates and information:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Date of Publication of RFP** | : | **11.05.2026** |
| **Submission of pre-bid queries of Pre-Bid Queries.** | : | **18.05.2026** |
| **Pre-Bid Meeting** | : | **19.05.2026** |
| **Response to pre-bid queries** | : | **22.05.2026** |
| **Bid Submission starting date** | : | **23.05.2026** |
| **Bid submission last date** | : | **01.06.2026, 4.00 pm** |

Sd/-
**Additional Secretary**

29001/4/2627 OIPR-29001/29001/1/26-27/0002

**KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD**
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar
Bengaluru - 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-01/180-1/2026-27 Date: 11.05.2026

**SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER**
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tenders under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid License issued from KPWD, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments & sufficient past experience for the following works as per the schedule given below:

**Name of the Work : 1)** Maintenance of 15M wide road from Mahalbagyath Main Road to Aliyabad Block-I Road at Mahalbagyath Industrial Area, Vijayapura District. **2)** Construction of New Road and Drain in KIADB Area at Humnabad in Humnabad Taluk, Bidar District. **3)** Providing Over Head Height Barrier at Various Locations at Kadechur Badiyal Industrial Area, Yadagiri District (4th Call).

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **27.05.2026** upto **4.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

**Sd/-**
**Chief Engineer-2,**
**KIADB Bengaluru**

DIPR/CP/601/Zen/2026-27

CACHE

Craig Federighi, Apple's senior vice president of software engineering, speaking about Siri at the Apple Worldwide Developers Conference in San Jose, California on June 4, 2018. AP

# Apple is paying for its promise of an AI overhaul of Siri to a smarter assistant

The tech industry has spent the last two years drowning consumers in AI hype; every product, and every update, has been dressed up in the language of transformation and intelligence; Apple's Siri settlement is a rare moment where that rhetoric met actual legal consequence

**John Xavier**

You see the ad, you feel the excitement, you spend the money, and then you wait. And wait. Eventually, quietly, you stop waiting as the thing you were promised simply never showed up.

That's precisely what happened with Apple's much-hyped AI overhaul of the voice assistant, Siri. And now Apple is paying a quarter of a billion dollars for misleading buyers.

**A marketing blitz**

Let me take you back to the September of 2024 when Apple made a marketing pitch its Siri was reinvented. That meant the voice assistant could understand context, take actions across apps, and integrate with ChatGPT. The company's ads were slick, the keynote moments were dramatic, and the message was clear: the iPhone 16 was an AI phone, and that Siri was, finally, the assistant it always should have been.

But there was just one problem. None of it was ready at that point. And as it turned out, not for a very long time.

What Apple marketed as imminent never materialised.

The company quietly confirmed the features were indefinitely delayed, pulled its own ads, and hoped the noise would die down. It did not.

A class action lawsuit followed, accusing Apple of having promoted AI capabilities that did not exist in its device at the time of launch, and until several months later. According to a *Reuters* report, even the U.S. advertising watchdog, Better Business Bureau's National Advertising Division, concluded that Apple had falsely suggested the new AI-powered Siri was "available now."

Apple had made a marketing pitch in 2024 about reinventing Siri and integrating in with ChatGPT. But what was shown as imminent never materialised, leading to a class action lawsuit. AP

That was a damning finding as an enhanced Siri was the single most anticipated feature among potential iPhone buyers at the time. Apple knew people were buying phones because of what they were being told Siri could do. And it sold them anyway.

**The settlement**

On May 5, Apple agreed to pay $250 million to settle the lawsuit, without admitting any wrongdoing.

The settlement covers roughly 36 million eligible devices, specifically the iPhone 16, iPhone 15 Pro, and iPhone 15 Pro Max purchased in the United States between June 10, 2024, and March 29, 2025. If you bought one of those phones in that window, within the U.S., you are likely a class member.

Each eligible user might receive anywhere between $25 to $95 per device, depending on how many buyers make the claim. It is a paltry amount compared to the price of an iPhone, but at least it shows that a trillion-dollar company sold people a product on the basis of features that were not there. The settlement still requires final approval from Judge Noel Wise of the federal district court for the Northern District of California, with a hearing scheduled for June 17.

Apple, in a statement, said: "We resolved this matter to stay focused on what we do best: delivering the most innovative products and services to our users."

**The fate of non-U.S. buyers**

The U.S. settlement does not help iPhone buyers in other countries as class action is a American legal mechanism. Next to the U.S., the European Union has a strong consumer protection mechanism mandated by the its Directive on Representative Actions. It allows qualified consumer organisations to bring collective redress cases on behalf of large groups of affected consumers. If any consumer organisation in the EU finds Apple's advertising of Siri's AI capabilities inflated, they could bring a legal complaint against the American company.

Beyond that, the EU's existing consumer protection framework prohibits misleading advertising in clear terms. And the bloc is known for taking big tech companies to task for their unfair trade practices. The Digital Markets Act and Digital Services Act have also made regulators more assertive.

Any EU consumer who feels misled can file a complaint with their national consumer authority; in aggregate, those complaints can trigger formal investigations.

Moving away from the Atlantic, in India, the picture is more fragmented. The Consumer Protection Act of 2019 allows for complaints involving misleading advertisements. Individual consumers can also approach District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions. But in the Asian nation, the challenge is structural as cases must generally be filed individually or through consumer groups, and the process can be slow. That said, if Apple's Indian marketing made claims about Siri's AI capabilities similar to those made in the U.S. – and the global ad campaigns suggest it likely did – the legal and regulatory hooks exist.

The tech industry has spent the last two years drowning consumers in AI hype. Every product, and every update, has been dressed up in the language of transformation and intelligence. Apple's Siri settlement is a rare moment where that rhetoric met actual legal consequence. It will not be the last.

THE DAILY QUIZ

## On the anniversary of the devastating Nepal earthquake of May 2015, test your knowledge of earthquakes and seismic science

**Prathmesh Kher**

**QUESTION 1**
What instrument is used to measure earthquakes?

**QUESTION 2**
What scale is commonly used today to measure an earthquake's magnitude?

**QUESTION 3**
What is the point inside the earth where an earthquake originates called?

**QUESTION 4**
What is the name of the boundary where one tectonic plate moves beneath another?

**QUESTION 5**
What is the point on the Earth's surface directly above the focus called?

**Visual question:** Identify this Italian volcanologist developed the intensity scale for measuring earthquake intensity. PUBLIC DOMAIN

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

**Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:**
1.Where was the second *Zoo Quest* episode set in? **A: Sierra Leone**
2. For which film did Attenborough win the Best Narration/Voice Over honours? **A: 'Wild Karnataka'**
3. Which animal does the famed explorer has a phobia for? **A: Rats**
4. What is the significant contribution of Sir David to the world of international tennis? **A: The transition from white balls to yellow balls**
5. Which cult comedy series did he commission in the late 1960s? **A: 'Monty Python's Flying Circus'**
6. Which Attenborough documentary was released directly alongside the COP26 climate summit? **A: 'A Life on Our Planet'**
Visual: Name the prestigious Sir David is holding and what the related technological record: **A: BAFTA; He is the only one to win a BAFTA for programmes produced in all five video formats: B&W, colour, HD, 3D, and 4K.**

**Early Birds**
K. N. Viswanathan | Tamal Biswas | Sudhir Thapa | Arun Kumar Singh | Sumana Dutta

FROM THE ARCHIVES

## *Know your English*

**S. Upendran**

"I have a doubt."

"You always have one. You should be called 'Doubtmaster'."

"Like 'Beastmaster'! I was watching a Hollywood movie yesterday. One of the characters kept saying A S A P, A S A P. At least, that's what I think he was saying. Any idea what it means?"

"It's an expression which Americans use quite often in speech, and also in informal styles of writing. A S A P stands for 'as soon as possible'."

"I see. But how does one use it? Can you give me an example?"

"Certainly. I would like to meet you A S A P."

"When he heard that his father wasn't well, he returned A S A P."

"So whenever I use the expression, I have to say each letter, right? I mean...."

"....that's what a lot of people do. Say each letter out loud. Some however, merely say the letter 'A', and ...."

"....what happens to S A P?"

"It's made to sound like the word 'sap', which by the way, rhymes with 'nap', 'map', and 'lap'."

"That's interesting."

"That's right! Sometimes a common expression has been reduced to a single word. Take for example, 'hi'."

"What about it?"

"Tell me, how do you normally greet someone?"

"You normally say 'hi'."

"In formal contexts?"

"In formal contexts we generally say 'Good morning. How are you?'. And then...."

".... exactly! In the old days it was standard practice to say 'How are you?' when you ran into someone. Since this greeting was so common, nobody really bothered to say the words clearly. Some of them started saying it very fast. And when said very quickly 'How are you?', sounds like 'hiya'."

"And from 'hiya', we get 'hi', is it?"

"That's right."

"That's interesting. You know Americans tend to use 'so long' when they wish to bid goodbye to someone. Is this expression also a..."

"....no, no. 'so long' is not a reduction of anything. There are many theories to account for that. I understand that when Jews meet or take leave of each other, they use the expression 'shalom'. The 'a' is like the 'a' in China and the 'o' in the second syllable is like the 'o' in 'hot', 'cot', and 'pot'. It means 'peace'."

"The stress is on the second syllable, I suppose?"

"Correct. Native speakers of English, when they heard the Jews using this expression, thought they were saying 'so long'."

"And they started using this expression too!"

"That's right! So, when you say 'so long' what you are actually attempting to say is 'shalom'."

"Well, I guess I'd better make a move. Shalom."

## Word of the day

**Calumny:**
(the act of making) a statement about someone that is not true and is intended to damage the reputation of that person

Synonyms: lie, defamation, malice

Usage: *That is surely an unjustified calumny on an honourable profession.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/calumnypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /kæləmni/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

# Vijay calls on Stalin, leaders of other parties

**The Hindu Bureau**
CHENNAI

A day after he was sworn-in, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay sprung a surprise on Monday by calling on DMK president and former Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, MDMK leader Vaiko, NTK founder Seeman, and PMK leader Anbumani Ramadoss.

Meanwhile, leaders from other States in India and Sri Lanka extended their greetings to Mr. Vijay, who was sworn in as the Chief Minister on Sunday.

Taking to social media, Mr. Stalin said Mr. Vijay met him with "political decency" and received his wishes and suggestions. Leader of the Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin was present during the meeting. Mr. Vijay and Mr. Stalin exchanged shawls, and Mr. Udhayanidhi presented a book to Mr. Vijay.

Mr. Vaiko and his son, MP Durai Vaiko, received Mr. Vijay at their residence. Mr. Vaiko told *The Hindu*: "He is the first Chief Minister to visit my residence. Even Mr. Stalin visited only when he was the Leader of the Opposition."

In a video clip, Mr. Durai Vaiko was seen introducing a few to Mr. Vijay as "those who voted for the whistle!"

Mr. Vijay also visited Mr. Anbumani, in the presence of Dharmapuri MLA Sowmiya Anbumani, and Mr. Seeman, who presented him with a basket of fruits and a book.

Besides Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Union Ministers of State L. Murugan and Ramdas Athwale, leaders of allies, including Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and CPI(M) general secretary M.A. Baby, extended their greetings, an official release said.

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, as well as Sri Lankan president Anura Kumara Dissanayake, and Sri Lankan Leader of the Opposition Sajith Premadasa greeted the new Chief Minister.

Former Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, former Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, former Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, and former Union Minister Rajesh Pilot extended their greetings to Mr. Vijay.

Former Kerala Minister Ramesh Chennithala; MPs Kamal Haasan, Vijay Vasanth, Karti P. Chidambaram, Mahua Moitra (Trinamool Congress), and Abhishek Singhvi (Congress); former BJP State president K. Annamalai; DMDK general secretary Premallatha Vijayakant; Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Priyanka Chaturvedi; AMMK general secretary T.T.V. Dhinakaran; AIPTMMK general secretary V.K. Sasikala, Congress leader Girish Chodankar; and BJP State president Nainar Nagenthran also greeted Mr. Vijay.

The Chief Minister thanked them all.

# AICC summons Kerala leaders to Delhi to finalise CM choice

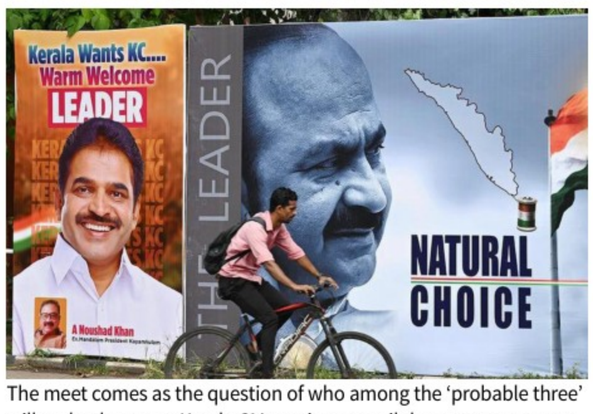
## Former KPCC chiefs to attend crucial meeting with the high command today; decision on new CM within 48 hours, says Muraleedharan; meet likely to involve in-person talks with Kharge and Rahul

**The Hindu Bureau**
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The All India Congress Committee (AICC) has summoned top leaders from Kerala to New Delhi, ostensibly to finalise the party's choice for Chief Minister of the State.

Those attending the crucial meeting with the party's high command on Tuesday include former Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) presidents K. Sudhakaran, V.M. Sudheeran, K. Muraleedharan, and M.M. Hassan.

Mr. Muraleedharan told presspersons that he had made his choice for the top post clear to AICC observers, who sought the opinion of the party's MLA designates last week. "I will merely reiterate my stated position. The Congress high command's decision will come within 48 hours. It will bring the curtains down on the endless leadership speculation" he said. Mr. Sudheeran said the closed-door meeting might involve in-person discussions with the high command comprising Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi and party's national president Mallikarjun Kharge, among others.



The meet comes as the question of who among the 'probable three' will make the cut as Kerala CM continue to roil the party. FILE PHOTO

A KPCC insider said the high command had initiated broad-based discussions with senior leaders and, supposedly, UDF leaders before finalising its choice for the Chief Minister's post.

Meanwhile, the question of who among the "probable three" will make the cut as Congress's Chief Minister seemed to roil the party's State unit. Supposedly pro-Congress social media handles stoked speculation that the high command may consider a "new name" to strike a via media between opposing factions advocating for their respective leaders.

# Jockeying on for KPCC president post

**The Hindu Bureau**
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

On the heels of the crisis in the Congress in Kerala over the selection of the Chief Minister, an equally intense battle for the post of Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president has ensued.

According to party insiders, KPCC president Sunny Joseph, MLA-designate, is likely to relinquish the organisational post to take up a significant role in the next United Democratic Front (UDF) government, leaving the KPCC president's post up for grabs.

A senior leader said a restructuring of the KPCC leadership was inevitable, and that age, social demographics, and political merit would guide the All India Congress Committee (AICC)'s choice for the post.

According to sources, the frontrunners for the post include Benny Behanan, Kodikunnil Suresh, Anto Antony, and Shafi Parambil – all Lok Sabha MPs. Sources said Mr. Behanan was not keen on lobbying for the post if the decision was guided by caste and religious considerations. He is said to be miffed about being passed over for the post in the past despite his "experience and organisational standing."

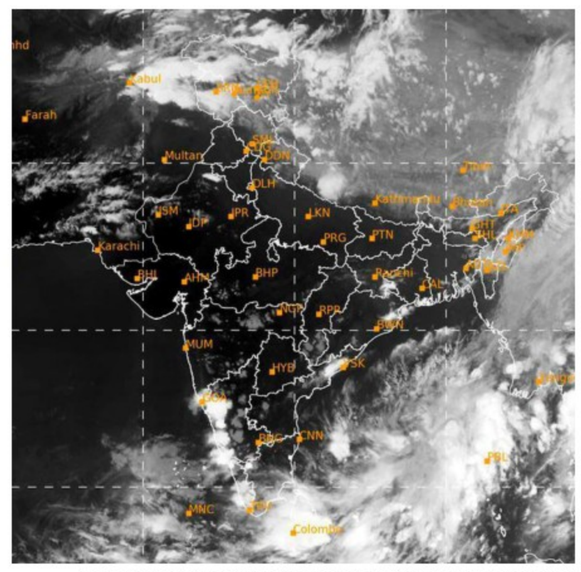
### 'Focus on CM post'

Meanwhile, media reports suggested that Mr. Suresh has once again advanced his claim for the post and had met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge in Delhi. Mr. Suresh told *The Hindu* that it was too early for the AICC to weigh which leader was optimal as KPCC president. "I had met Mr. Kharge.

"It was a routine goodwill visit, and we did not dwell on any organisational matter. The high command is now preoccupied with discussions concerning Kerala's prospective Chief Minister. The question of who will assume charge as the next KPCC president would come later," he added. Neither Mr. Parambil nor Mr. Antony was immediately available for comment.

## WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

**Forecast for Tuesday:** Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim and West Bengal. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Tripura, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

| CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN | CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agartala | 24 | 33.2 | 22.1 | Kozhikode | 0.2 | 35.1 | 28.2 |
| Ahmedabad | — | 44.3 | 30.0 | Kurnool | 3 | 40.2 | 26.5 |
| Aizawl | 13 | 29.5 | 20.7 | Lucknow | — | 36.3 | 26.2 |
| Allahabad | — | 40.4 | 26.0 | Madurai | — | 37.0 | 25.0 |
| Bengaluru | — | 34.5 | 23.2 | Mangaluru | 0.2 | 34.4 | 25.9 |
| Bhopal | — | 41.2 | 25.2 | Mumbai | — | 35.8 | 28.0 |
| Bhubaneswar | — | 36.6 | 24.4 | Mysuru | — | 34.4 | 22.0 |
| Chandigarh | — | 36.0 | 21.9 | New Delhi | — | 37.5 | 27.1 |
| Chennai | 0.4 | 34.7 | 27.0 | Patna | — | 35.4 | 24.8 |
| Coimbatore | — | 36.4 | 25.4 | Port Blair | — | 33.0 | 26.1 |
| Dehradun | — | 31.2 | 23.0 | Puducherry | — | 33.1 | 25.8 |
| Gangtok | 0.3 | 22.7 | 14.0 | Pune | — | 43.8 | 27.6 |
| Goa | — | 35.7 | 29.0 | Raipur | — | 39.2 | 26.5 |
| Guwahati | 3 | 30.2 | 21.7 | Ranchi | 46 | 31.8 | 19.0 |
| Hubballi | — | 37.0 | 23.0 | Shillong | 26 | 21.1 | 12.5 |
| Hyderabad | — | 38.7 | 25.2 | Shimla | 11 | 25.6 | 14.5 |
| Imphal | 0.4 | 26.3 | 21.3 | Srinagar | 0.8 | 24.4 | 14.0 |
| Jaipur | — | 39.9 | 28.2 | Thiruvananthapuram | — | 33.1 | 26.7 |
| Kochi | — | 32.0 | 26.2 | Tiruchi | — | 35.7 | 25.6 |
| Kohima | — | 21.0 | 13.0 | Vijayawada | — | 37.3 | 25.7 |
| Kolkata | — | 34.0 | 25.1 | Visakhapatnam | — | 34.6 | 28.5 |

*(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)*

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing**

| CITIES | $SO_2$ | $NO_2$ | CO | PM2.5 | PM10 | CODE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ahmedabad | .10 | ..30 | .93 | .....63 | ...137 | ..... |
| Bengaluru | .16 | ..19 | .54 | .....35 | ...106 | ..... |
| Chennai | ...4 | ..14 | ..— | .....18 | ...170 | ..... |
| Delhi | .23 | ....3 | .78 | ...228 | ...150 | ..... |
| Hyderabad | ...2 | ....7 | .19 | ...142 | ...135 | ..... |
| Kolkata | .15 | ..26 | .28 | .....65 | ....66 | ..... |
| Lucknow | .10 | ..43 | .26 | ...117 | ...111 | ..... |
| Mumbai | ...2 | ..18 | .66 | .....39 | ...120 | ..... |
| Pune | ..— | ..28 | 133 | .....63 | ....99 | ..... |
| Visakhapatnam | ...7 | ..11 | .12 | .....10 | ....38 | ..... |

**Yesterday**
In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 299 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Chhapra, Bihar recorded a healthy AQI score of 20

**Air Quality Code:** Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

**$SO_2$:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

**$NO_2$:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

**CO:** Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

**PM2.5 & PM10:** Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

# Man robbed at knifepoint by three men in Bengaluru

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

A man has lodged a complaint with the Parappana Agrahara police alleging that he was robbed by a group of three unidentified men at knifepoint in Parappana Agrahara on Friday.

According to the complainant, Ramesh D., the incident took place on May 8, around 10.30 a.m. near the Doddanagamangala main road.

The complainant stated that he had gone to visit his elder brother's house and had stopped his bike by the roadside while speaking on his mobile phone. During that time, three men travelling in a car approached him and asked for directions.

As the complainant was speaking with one of the men, the other two drew close to him and forcibly took ₹2,400 cash from his shirt pocket. When he attempted to resist, one of the accused reportedly brandished a knife and threatened to stab him. The complaint further stated that another accused searched his pockets for money, while one of the three men snatched his mobile phone before attempting to flee from the spot.

Ramesh stated the person who had taken his mobile phone tried to get into the moving car, but the phone allegedly slipped and fell onto the road. The accused then fled from the scene. Ramesh stated that due to panic and confusion, he was unable to note down the vehicle registration number. He later informed his brother about the incident and then filed the complaint.

# Bengaluru Traffic Police crack down on drunk driving and overspeeding during special drive

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

**Police registered 579 cases against motorists found driving under the influence of alcohol**

The city traffic police have booked 579 drunk driving cases during a special enforcement drive conducted across Bengaluru from May 4 to 10. The special drive was aimed at improving road safety and curbing violations such as drunken driving, overspeeding or rash driving, which are among the leading causes of road accidents in the city. During the campaign, the police checked 45,272 vehicles of various categories and registered 579 cases against motorists found driving under the influence of alcohol.

In a parallel drive against overspeeding, the police registered 179 cases and collected fines worth ₹1.80 lakh. The police said similar drives would continue to ensure strict compliance with traffic regulations.

# Python rescued

KALABURAGI: A large python that swallowed a monkey in a farm located near Kashempur village in Bhalki taluk of Bidar district was rescued on Monday.

UTTAR PRADESH MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Uttar Pradesh Undertaking)

**Tender Notice**

Tender Ref. No: UPMSCL/Drugs-254/07 Dated: 08/05/2026

**e-TENDER FOR SUPPLY Of DRUGS**

Online tenders are invited from licensed manufacturers for supply of drugs to UPMSCL. The details of tender, list of items and Tender Documents are made available on website https://etender.up.nic.in and www.upmsc.in. The last date/time of online submission of the tender documents is **10/06/2026 upto 15:00 Hrs.**

Managing Director
UPMSCL, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
Department of Medical Health & Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - 1, BENGALURU**
No. 4, Second Floor, LIC Jeevan Mangal Building, Residency Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560 025.

FORM NO. 14
[See Regulation 33(2)]

DRC No. 943 / 2019

Punjab National Bank
(Erestwhile United Bank of India)
Mahalakshmipuram Branch
No. 7, Mahalakshmi Puram, IInd Stage,
West of Chord Road, Bengaluru - 560 086. ... Certificate Holder

Versus

Sri. Rohan Rana & Another ... Certified Debtor(s)

**DEMAND NOTICE**

To,
**1. Sri. Rohan Rana**
No. 03, 9th Main Road, 2nd Cross, Gundappa Gowda Road, Ejipura, Bengaluru - 560 047.
**2. Mrs. L.K. Marina Rongmei**
No. 03, 9th Main Road, 2nd Cross, Gundappa Gowda Road, Ejipura, Bengaluru - 560 047.

In view of the Recovery Certificate issued in **O.A. No. 1156 / 2017** passed by the **Hon'ble Presiding Officer, DRT, Bangaluru on 12-09-2019 an amount of Rs. 26,83,901/- (Rupees Twenty Six Lakh Eighty Three Thousand Nine Hundred and One Only)** is due against you along with interest and costs from date failing of O.A.s till realization.

You are hereby called upon to deposit the amount within 15 days of the receipt of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules.

In addition to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay :
(a) Such interest as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the execution proceedings.
(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and other process that may be taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on **20th day of Nov. 2019.**

**(Rajasekharan .R)**
**Recovery Officer - 1**
**DRT - 1 : Bangaluru**
**E-Mail : rajasekharan.r@nic.in**

**Note :** Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below.

: "Rule 16(1) where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debts Recovery Officer, nor shall any civil court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money.

(2) Where an attachment has been made under this schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
MINISTRY OF FINANCE, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-2, BENGALURU**
Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru -560001

**PROCLAMATION OF SALE CUM E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE**

ISSUED UNDER RULE 52(2) OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 (As Amended From Time To Time)

**RC No.116/2019 in OA. No.61/2018**

**KARNATAKA GRAMEENA BANK,** (Erstwhile Kaveri Grameena Bank)
....Certificate Holder /Applicant

V/s

**Sri Siddaiah & Others** .... Certificate Debtors

**To: (CH) Karnataka Grameena Bank,** (Erstwhile Kaveri Grameema Bank) Bidare Branch, Chelur Hobli, Gubi Taluk, Tumkur District ...Certificate Holder/Applicant

**(CD-1) Sri Siddaiah** S/o. Late Sri Era Chikkanna, Residing at Dibbada Halli Hatti, Satenahalli Post, Chelur Hobli, Gubbi Taluk, Tumakuru District , **(CD 2) Sri Chikkanna** S/o. Late Sri Era Chikkanna, Residing at Dibbada Halli Hatti, Satenahalli Post, Chelur Hobli, Gubbi Taluk, Tumakuru District , **(CD 3) Sri Krishnappa** S/o. Sri Siddaiah, Residing at Dibbada Halli Hatti, Satenahalli Post, Chelur Hobli, Gubbi Taluk, Tumakuru District , .... Certificate Debtors (CDs)

The under mentioned property will be sold by '**online e-Auction**' through web site: **www.bankauctions.in** on **09.07.2026** for recovery of an amount of **Rs.45,30,018/-** (Rupees Forty Five Lakhs Thirty Thousand Eighteen Only) as on 30.04.2026. The futures interest is chargeable at the same rate till realization of debt as per recovery certificate bearing **RC No.116/2019 in OA No. 61/2018.**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Date, Time of Auction** | **09.07.2026 at beween 11.00 A. M. to 12.30 P.M.** |
| **Reserve Price** | **Rs.63,00,000/-** (Rupees Sixty Three Lakhs Only) |
| **Earnest Money Deposit** | **Rs.6,30,000/-** (Rupees Six Lakhs Thirty Thousand Only) |
| **Bid Increment Amount** | **Rs.1,00,000/-** (Rupees One Lakh Only) |
| **Last day for Bid Submission** | **by 4.00 P.M. on 07.07.2026** |

**SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY :** (Property Standing in the joint names of defendants) Agricultural Land Property

| Sl. No | Survey No. | Extent (Acres & Guntas) | Boundaries | Location |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 168/2 | 04 Acres 08 Guntas, | East by : Puttanaiah, West b y : Buddiraiah North by : Road, South by : Shankarappa. | Nallur Village, Chelur Hobli, Gubbi Taluk, Tumkur District. |

For Terms and condition of sale visit website: **www.bankauctions.in, M/s. Forecloser India Pvt. Ltd., (Contact person: Mr. Varun , mob: 8142000809, Mr. Jayaprakash Reddy Mob : 8142000066, e mail Id : info@bankauctions.in.**

For further details contact: **Sri Chethan Yadav V, Branch Manager, Karnataka Grameena Bank, Bidare Branch, Tumkur District - Mob : 9008536770 & Sri Vijay Kumar, Chief Manager, ARM Branch, Bengaluru-9579575790, e-mail Id : br2153@kgbk.in or arm@kgbk.in** for ascertaining the details of property and also for inspection of properties.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal at Bangalore on **07.05.2026**

**Sd/-**
**Recovery Officer -II**
**DRT-2, Bengaluru**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II**
4th Floor, BSNL Telephone House Building, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore - 560 001

(See Sec. 25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act 1993 read II Scheduld to the Income Tax Act 1961).

**NOTICE FOR SETTLING A SALE PROCLAMATION**

**RC 287/2020 in OA No. 867/2019**

**Between : Canara Bank,** Hi Tech Agricultural Finance Branch (Now ARM-1 Branch) Bengaluru. ...Certificte Holder

**AND**

**Sri V. P. Rakshit** S/o. Late Kanakaprasanna @ Prasanna V. R. Residing at: Halasahalli Road, Varthur, Bengaluru - 560 087.
Also at : Sri V. P. Rakshit, Having Rakshit Dairy Farm, at Begli Hosaha Village and Post, Kolar Taluk and District - 563 101. ...Certificate Debtors

Whereas in execution of Certificate RC No.287/2020 in in OA No.867/2019 issued by the presiding Officer , Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bengaluru, the undersigned has ordered the sale of under mentioned Properties.

You are hereby informed that the day on or after the 15th day from the date of service of this notice, has been fixed for drawing up the proclamation of sale and settling the terms thereof, you are requested to bring to the notice of the undersigned any encumbrances, charges, claims or liabilities attaching to the said properties or any portion thereof.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE MORTGAGED SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

| Sy. No. | Area | Boundaries | Location |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7/2(1A-32G), 7/3(1A-32G) 7/3(2A-31G), 7/4(2A-18G) 7/5(36G), 7/7(36G) 7/8(36G),7/9(36G), 7/10(1A-32G), 7/12(1A-32G), 7/13(1A-32G), 7/14(1A-32G), 7/15(1A-32G), 19(1A-07G), 20(2A-09G) & 21(1A-30G) | 25 Acre | East by : Property of Benjanehalli Munirayanappa, Parvathamma and Gowramma West by : Property of V P Rakshith and Chandra Gowda North by : Property of SC Muniyappa, BG Ramaiah and Kaviraj South by : Lands of K. Muniyappa | Chinnenahalli Village Kasaba Hobli Kolar Taluk and District |

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this **23.01.2024**

**Sd/-** Recovery Officer-I
Debts Recovery Tribunal-2, Bengaluru

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II**
4th Floor, BSNL Telephone House Building, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore - 560 001

**WARRANT OF ATTACHMENT OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

(See Sec.25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 r/w Rule 48 to 51 of the II Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961 )

**RC 287/2020 in OA No. 867/2019**

**Between : Canara Bank,** Hi Tech Agricultural Finance Branch (Now ARM-1 Branch) Bengaluru. ...Certificte Holder

**AND**

**Sri V. P. Rakshit** S/o. Late Kanakaprasanna @ Prasanna V. R. Residing at: Halasahalli Road, Varthur, Bengaluru - 560 087.
Also at : Sri V. P. Rakshit, Having Rakshit Dairy Farm, at Begli Hosaha Village and Post, Kolar Taluk and District - 563 101. ...Certificate Debtors

Whereas the aboved named Certificate Debtor was ordered through the above referred Recovery Certificate to pay to the Applicant Bank (Certificate Holder) a sum of **Rs.11,12,80,840.64/-** (Rupees Eleven Crore Twelve Lakhs Eighty Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty and Paise Sixty Four only) together with interest and cost as per RC till the date of realization and whereas the said sum has not been paid by the CDR/you.

This is to command you to attach the immovable property of the said Certificate Debtors as set forth in the schedule hereunto annexed, or which shall be pointed out to you by the said Certificate and unless the said Certificate Debtors shall pay to you the above said sum as per R.C. and costs of this attachment, to hold the same until further orders from the Recovery Officer.

You are further commanded to return the warrant on or before **23.02.2024** with an endorsement certifying the day on which and the manner in which it has been executed, or why it has not been executed.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE MORTGAGED SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

| Sy. No. | Area | Boundaries | Location |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7/2(1A-32G), 7/3(1A-32G) 7/3(2A-31G), 7/4(2A-18G) 7/5(36G), 7/7(36G) 7/8(36G),7/9(36G), 7/10(1A-32G), 7/12(1A-32G), 7/13(1A-32G), 7/14(1A-32G), 7/15(1A-32G), 19(1A-07G), 20(2A-09G) & 21(1A-30G) | 25 Acre | East by : Property of Benjanehalli Munirayanappa, Parvathamma and Gowramma West by : Property of V P Rakshith and Chandra Gowda North by : Property of SC Muniyappa, BG Ramaiah and Kaviraj South by : Lands of K. Muniyappa | Chinnenahalli Village Kasaba Hobli Kolar Taluk and District |

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this **23.01.2024**

**Sd/-** Recovery Officer-I
Debts Recovery Tribunal-2, Bengaluru

## Belated warning

### Narendra Modi's suggestions to Indians imply a serious economic impact

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's seven-point call to action for the citizens of India lays bare the severity of the impact of the West Asia crisis. Further, apart from its implications, Mr. Modi's message is problematic for two other key reasons: its timing and content. A key part of his message was to urge people to work from home and reduce their fuel usage. A more effective approach might have been to lead by example. Yet, Mr. Modi's message comes days after he and his Cabinet colleagues flew all over the country and organised roadshows to campaign for the recent elections. Neither did any of his pre-election speeches mention these issues. His message also comes on the back of daily reassurances by his government's officials that there was nothing to worry. Clearly, there is. The Prime Minister's message also follows various Ministers' attempts to heap praise on him for not raising petrol and diesel prices. A decision not to further burden the common man is welcome, but the flip side is that it fails to impress upon them the need to curtail consumption. The government took that strategic call before the elections, and is now trying to dilute it. Perhaps a hike in fuel prices will follow soon. The Prime Minister's speech also coincided with a similar call to action for Indian corporates by the Confederation of Indian Industry. This kind of coordinated messaging points to a dire situation. Several of the Prime Minister's suggestions might also have other negative impacts that could be more serious than the problems they are trying to address. Some others might simply not be as effective as he hopes.

If farmers stop using chemical fertilizers, as he has urged, the immediate impact will be on crop output at a time when El Niño is already set to hurt it. High-frequency indicators are already revealing the economic damage of the West Asia crisis. This will only exacerbate the situation. The suggestion to stop foreign travel will conserve foreign exchange, but Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data up to February 2026 shows that Indians' foreign travel spending in 2025-26 was already down by 3%. March, the first month after the Iran war broke out, is likely to have seen an even sharper decline. The real pressure on the rupee and India's foreign exchange is because foreign institutional investors are pulling out while the RBI is using valuable dollars to shore up the falling currency. Urging Indians to buy local is another way of asking them to consume less, since purely domestic supply is not nearly enough to cater to the demand. Asking them to buy less gold is also likely to be futile. All this means that the economy is in for a hard time over the next few months – a warning the Prime Minister should have delivered much earlier, elections or no elections.

## Ugly bout

### The timing of the show-cause notice to Vinesh Phogat is suspect

Double World championships bronze medalist Vinesh Phogat's comeback bid after a sabbatical following the Paris Olympics hit a roadblock when the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) found her ineligible as per a United World Wrestling (UWW) rule, which requires retired athletes to inform the world body six months prior to their intended return to competition. With an eye on the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, Phogat – a prominent face in the 2023 wrestlers' protest and one of the six women who brought allegations of sexual harassment and started a legal battle against former WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh – was aiming for a brave comeback in the Open Ranking tournament at the Nandini Nagar Mahavidyalaya; Brij Bhushan, also a Gonda strongman and former BJP Member of Parliament, owns it. The National Federation, which is headed by Brij Bhushan's close aide Sanjay Singh, also issued a show-cause notice to Phogat on three separate, prominent grounds. Firstly, that she did not adhere to the 50kg weight limit and was disqualified after reaching the final at the Paris Olympics. It resulted in her disqualification, a loss of medal and negative publicity. Second, as an athlete in the registered testing pool, who is required to give a time slot every day and be available for dope tests, she had multiple whereabouts failures, including on December 18, shortly after announcing her comeback. Third, Phogat violated a UWW rule by competing in two weight categories, 50kg and 53kg, at a selection trial in March 2024 for an Olympic qualifying event.

But the timing of the show-cause notice and the charges, which Phogat has rubbished, raises doubts about the intentions behind it. As for the Paris fiasco, it happened two years ago. Under World Anti-Doping Agency rules, three missed tests and/or filing failures within a 12-month period constitute an anti-doping rule violation. It is, however, not applicable in Phogat's case. Moreover, the UWW and National Anti-Doping Agency are the authorities concerned to deal with doping issues. The trials, in which Phogat participated in two weights, were held by an ad hoc body as the WFI was not recognised by the government at the time. As a parent body, the WFI should have shown maturity in handling Phogat's comeback. Instead, it clubbed together different matters spanning two years to thwart the 31-year-old's return. Phogat, who is a Congress legislator from Haryana, has shown her strong temperament and is working with her legal team to respond to the show-cause notice within 14 days. Meanwhile, the UWW should step in to stop the ugly bout between a decorated wrestler and the WFI. India can do without further embarrassment on this score.

# The enduring democratic message of a royal charter

**Gopalkrishna Gandhi**

Teacher, former administrator, diplomat and Governor

'Magna ...what ?'

Most contemporary readers and viewers of news would, on hearing or reading that phrase, ask. But not those interested in history, the rule of law, the rights of citizens, the supremacy of ethics over politics in the running of governments.

King Charles III of the United Kingdom in his speech on April 28, to the U.S. Congress in Washington DC used the phrase to thunderous applause. He is very much into the history of his country. He has to be, as a successor of King John (c.1167-1216) who unveiled, or was forced to unveil the Magna Carta. 'John who?' could well be the next question. So lacking in luck was King John that no monarch in England has been given that name ever since. There has been no King John II. But he is famous for having decreed and given, or made to decree and give, not just to his country and people, but to the world, the Magna Carta.

The over 800-year-old royal charter of rights sealed by King John at Runnymede, near Windsor, on June 15, 1215 owes its name to Latin, the language of Homer and Cicero, in which the phrase means Great Charter. Magna Carta has come to mean, for those interested in the evolution of the political rights of people, a metaphor for any text that inscribes such rights as inherent in people, rather than being concerted without checks in any individual or organ of state.

Singularly unpopular for his whimsies, King John had to make peace with a group of rebel barons who demanded that the King sign himself out of arbitrary power and, most important of all, proclaim that he was subservient to law or what, in today's legal parlance would be called 'due process'. In referring to the Magna Carta, King Charles III was drawing attention to the limits of his own or any sovereign, including, in today's world, elected 'sovereigns'. Small wonder that legislators in Washington DC greeted the reference with éclat.

**Subtle language craftsmanship**

Does King Charles write his own speeches? It is more than likely that for a state visit such as this to the U.S., the British monarch had his speeches drafted by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. This, not just because they were to come from Britain's reigning King but because they were to be made in the world's most powerful nation currently at war, a war seen by the world as one that has been started by the personal decision of U.S. President Donald Trump. And that is where Britain's subtle ways with the language of William Shakespeare, Oscar Wilde and George Orwell came in handy. As also its interiorisation of Latinisms and Latin concepts that have grown into English usage. The term Magna Carta was per se coined, according to Wikipedia, by 'scribes in the English Royal Chancery around 1215-1217'. Three clauses of the Magna Carta remain on Britain's statute, of which the following is most impressive: 'No Freeman shall be taken or imprisoned, or be disseised of his Freehold, or Liberties, or free Customs, or be outlawed, or exiled, or any other wise destroyed; nor will We not pass upon him, nor condemn him, but by lawful judgment of his Peers, or by the Law of the land. We will sell to no man, we will not deny or defer to any man either Justice or Right.'

King Charles III has done well to reiterate that the Magna Carta's 'law above rulers' theme must resonate across the democratic world

The phrase has been used down the centuries as a metaphor.

As a barrister working for Indian South Africans' political rights in the late 19th century, Mohandas K. Gandhi cited Queen Victoria's extinguishing the overarching powers of the East India Company over the destiny of India in her Proclamation of 1858, as a Magna Carta. In 1948, Eleanor Roosevelt, while working on the UN Declaration of Human Rights as the committee's Chair, famously called the UN document the "international Magna Carta of all men everywhere". Winston Churchill referred to it as a "law which is above the King", and argued that the reaffirmation of a supreme law justified the respect it has held through time.

**Contextual messaging**

King Charles was not handing down to the U.S. Congress a tedious lesson in the history of the historical Magna Carta. But he did something that was altogether classy. Knowing full well that he was addressing a House comprising both Republican and Democratic legislators, he knew that when he said to that gathering, that the Magna Carta made the King subservient to the law, his listeners would transpose his remarks right onto what is happening in the U.S., to its state and government.

The King made more than one reference to the Magna Carta, and mentioned the fact that the parchment linked the political history of Great Britain and the U.S. inextricably, that a large number of judgments in the U.S. courts cited Magna Carta, making that tract a U.K.-U.S. bond. But it was when he said very simply and matter-of-factly, that the Magna Carta had made "executive power subject to checks and balances", that the House, after a moment of reflective absorption, rose in a thunderous standing ovation. All present, starting doubtless with Democrats, saw before them a direct successor to King John of Magna Carta fame, speaking of the Magna Carta's limiting arbitrariness in the monarch – a huge, self-limiting, self-denying, self-critical exposition of 'due process' of the rule of law as being above the person of the ruler, with the Magna Carta being above the King.

**The importance of the 'Magna' code**

The speech's salience in today's Washington aside, it should be seen as having been made to all Parliaments and legislators across the world, affirming that all people of the world – whether in the west or east, north or south, geographically or metaphorically – live with the expectation that the laws governing them are made by their representatives, for a humane, just, and moral order. That they are implemented fairly, equitably, transparently. That those in charge of the process are not governed by whimsy, caprice or bias. And that they are subservient to such laws, not the other way around. And that waging wars, waging peace are part of that 'Magna' code.

The speech, having been made in the parliament of what is called, not unambitiously, the world's oldest (continuous constitutional) democracy, was not partisan. It was not taking sides between elected legislators of diverse opinion and the executive. Indeed, it could not have, in good protocol and better prudence. It said, without stating it explicitly, that the spirit of the Magna Carta holds that those seeking and receiving popular mandates to form an executive are also under the scrutiny of parallel and co-extensive checks and balances. What has been called the "brooding spirit of the law" casts an obligation on the legislature and judiciary to ensure that democracy is not trampled, as it was in India during the infamous Emergency of 1975-77, by the robotic power of a "brute parliamentary majority," or by subtler, more devious methods of manipulation and subversion that play on human emotions, sentiments, and suspicions, which can lead to ethnic tensions, presaging civil strife – a form of 'within country' war – such as every continent has known.

History has known heredity to give the world villains as kings, violence as creed. It has also known credulity to give the world duly elected counterparts of such kings, creeds. Today, when massively contested elections in India east and south (in terms of voting percentages) have brought about new governments in three, and reinstalled one, it is important, and indeed critical, for electors and the elected to note that over any formation of government, there exists a monitor of morality which obligates democratically and federally ethical conduct.

It is a curious felicity that a reigning king wearing a heritable crown should have spoken democratic home truths to a great Parliament citing a Latin code and receive a standing ovation.

There is hope for truth. Or, in Latin, *spes veritatis est*.

# A new phase in the India-Vietnam strategic partnership

**Harsh V. Pant**

Vice-President for Studies at the Observer Research Foundation and Professor of International Relations at King's College London

**Pratnashree Basu**

Associate Fellow – Indo-Pacific, Strategic Studies Programme at the Observer Research Foundation

The state visit of Vietnamese President Tô Lâm to India last week (May 5-7, 2026) marks a consequential moment in the steady deepening of India-Vietnam ties, reflecting both the maturation of a long-standing partnership amid the sharpening strategic imperatives of the Indo-Pacific. The decision to elevate bilateral relations to an Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, along with a wide range of agreements spanning defence, technology, finance, and energy, signals not merely incremental progress but a qualitative shift in the trajectory of the relationship.

The visit comes at a time of heightened geopolitical flux in the Indo-Pacific as Vietnam finds itself navigating an increasingly assertive China in the South China Sea, while India continues to consolidate its Act East policy into a more security-oriented Indo-Pacific strategy. The convergence of threat perceptions, particularly regarding maritime coercion, supply chain vulnerabilities, and strategic autonomy, has provided a durable foundation for bilateral engagement. Indeed, the evolution of India-Vietnam ties has been gradual but structurally consistent, with India's erstwhile Look East (now Act East) policy providing the initial impetus and the elevation to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2016 enabling institutionalised defence and security cooperation. Since then, regular high-level exchanges, defence dialogues, and capacity-building initiatives have deepened trust.

**The pillar of defence cooperation**

Defence cooperation, in particular, has emerged as the backbone of the partnership. In addition to symbolic actions such as the transfer of the missile corvette, *INS Kirpan* (in 2023), India has offered Vietnam finance lines, training assistance, and maritime cooperation structures. The current debates around the possible shipment of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles demonstrate a change in the deterrence calculation in the South China Sea from capacity-building to capability enhancement.

Indo-Pacific dynamics are reshaping the India-Vietnam bilateral relationship

Similarly, economic ties, while less prominent historically, are now acquiring greater salience. Bilateral trade has crossed $16 billion, with an ambitious target of $25 billion by 2030, underscoring the recognition of untapped potential. A move toward next-generation economic participation is shown in the focus on supply chain resilience, rare earth collaboration, and digital payment integration. Moreover, Vietnam's position as an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) manufacturing powerhouse makes it an essential partner for India's diversification plans, especially in terms of scaling back reliance on supply chains that are mostly focused on China.

**The regional impact**

This deepening partnership has important regional ramifications. First, the relationship between India and Vietnam forms an important component of minilateral balancing in the Indo-Pacific.

Together with Japan, Australia, and the United States, both nations contribute to a wider network of strategic alliances that fight to maintain a rules-based maritime order, even if they are not legally included in U.S.-led alliance structures. A common normative framework intended to combat unilateralism in the South China Sea is shown in the explicit focus of joint statements on the "rule of law, peace, and stability".

Second, the partnership underscores the growing centrality of ASEAN in India's Indo-Pacific vision. Vietnam, as one of ASEAN's more geopolitically assertive and strategically consequential members, serves as a linchpin for India's deeper engagement with Southeast Asia. At the same time, Hanoi's own foreign policy, characterised by diversification and strategic hedging, finds a natural complement in India's multipronged partnership approach.

Third, the expansion of cooperation into areas such as critical minerals and emerging technologies points to the evolving nature of strategic competition in the Indo-Pacific. Partnerships such as the India-Vietnam partnership will be crucial in shaping alternative economic architectures as global supply chains become more securitised. The agreements made during the visit point to an effort to move beyond conventional economic ties in favour of a more comprehensive framework for economic security.

**Structural issues**

Looking ahead, the trajectory of India-Vietnam ties will depend on the ability of both sides to translate strategic intent into operational outcomes. Implementation gaps, particularly in trade, connectivity, and defence industrial cooperation, remain despite the strong political and strategic alignment. For example, navigating scientific, financial, and geopolitical obstacles will be necessary to realise defence exports such as BrahMos. In a similar vein, resolving structural obstacles, including logistics, legal frameworks, and private sector involvement, will be necessary to meet the ambitious trade goals.

India-Vietnam relations are likely to become increasingly embedded within the evolving architecture of the Indo-Pacific. Partnerships that combine functional cooperation with strategic trust will become more important as great power competition heats up. Hence, Mr. Tô Lâm's visit is more about marking the beginning of bilateral ties as a mature, multifaceted partnership than about a single diplomatic milestone.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Austerity from top down**

Austerity must begin at the top. With crude above $105 and the Strait of Hormuz crisis threatening India's foreign exchange reserves, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for citizen restraint on fuel, gold and foreign travel is understandable. But moral authority requires symmetry. Asking ordinary Indians to cut travel and consumption rings hollow when the ruling establishment continues lavish official travel and high-energy political events — and when the call came only after the Assembly elections concluded, with no mention of the crisis during the campaign itself.

**Gopalaswamy J.,**
Chennai

**Role of the Governor**

The role of the Governor in the Tamil Nadu election result needs a relook. In this instance, the Governor acted appropriately, and any contrary view would foster unwarranted cynicism about the office. According to the Sarkaria Commission's recommendations, the largest coalition should first be invited to form the government — which was not the case here. Preference should then be given to the single largest party, which, in this case, was the TVK led by C. Joseph Vijay, comfortably ahead of both the DMK and the AIADMK. Therefore, when Mr. Vijay approached the Governor, there was nothing improper in asking him to furnish proof of the numbers required to form the government, which he admittedly lacked.

In *S.R. Bommai*, the Supreme Court of India held that the floor of the House is the constitutionally ordained forum for testing a Ministry's majority. However, this does not preclude the Governor from ascertaining whether the single largest party has the requisite support before inviting it to face the House. In the present case, the Governor strictly adhered to the principle that the single largest party must demonstrate that it commands the numbers.

**N.G.R. Prasad,**
Chennai

**Corrections & Clarifications**

Governor Rajendra Arlekar asked the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam to furnish letters from the political parties offering the support of their MLAs-elect and did not "demand signed letters from 118 Members of the Legislative Assembly before he would administer the oath" (Editorial page, "The Governor who forgot his job", May 11).

The strapline of a report, "Manipur Naga bodies urge PM to rein in Kuki groups" (News page, May 11), read: "Civil society groups say recent attacks on Kuki villages... were used". It should have been Naga villages.

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# A new start against noise pollution

Vasudevan Mukunth

For a few weeks now, the most insistent sound in Tamil Nadu has been the pea whistle, and that looks set to continue. Inside the Chepauk stadium, Chennai Super Kings supporters live up to the team's call to action – "*whistle podu*" (blow the whistle) – through all its Indian Premier League matches.

Outside the stadium, since the Assembly election results on May 4, supporters of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) have flooded the streets across the State to celebrate Joseph Vijay's victory by blowing the party's election symbol, which is also a pea whistle.

Anyone who watched the 2010 football World Cup will understand how irritating this noise can be. The vuvuzelas were so relentless that international viewers complained that the football commentary had become inaudible, prompting several broadcasters to add audio filters. When hundreds or thousands of people blow pea whistles, they render a comparably terrible annoyance. A single whistle blast creates 104-116 decibels of pressure at the source, according to research from Western Michigan University. The threshold beyond which sustained exposure to air pressure can damage hearing is 85 decibels.

Some of the cricket team's matches have been rousing and the TVK's victory is unprecedented. But the fact remains that noise pollution has become the most tolerated form of pollution in India.

While even air pollution has finally forayed into the policy vocabulary as a deleterious problem, data from the National Ambient Noise Monitoring Network (NANMN) show that more than 80% of recording stations breached the prescribed noise limits during both day and night in 2019 itself – while awareness of its ills remains low. In Chennai, all 10 stations exceeded the residential nighttime threshold of 45 decibels. A 2022 UN Environment Programme report cited a maximum reading from Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh to be the world's second-highest on its list (a ranking contested by government officials).

The actual problem is likely to be much worse as the NANMN has only 70 stations across seven metros, and the network has not been meaningfully expanded in 14 years. District towns in the Hindi belt and the Northeast generate ambient sounds whose profiles no official authority is measuring. Further, in towns with less healthy civic infrastructure and less responsive policing, loudspeaker permissions are unchecked and construction activity often runs through the night. Among the poor, the children often sleep with noise while their parents often spend several hours in conditions that, in any country with a functioning occupational health enforcement, would attract criminal liability.

**Effects of excess noise**

The World Health Organization has attributed 16% of disabling hearing loss in adults to occupational noise. India is estimated to have 6.3 crore people with some degree of impaired hearing. According to studies of noise-induced hearing loss in occupational settings, the prevalence of impaired hearing ranges from 13% in a Puducherry survey of 500 construction workers to a pooled estimate of 49% in a meta-analysis of industrial cohorts.

The European Environment Agency ranks noise as the second-largest environmental cause of disability-adjusted life years lost in Europe, behind only air pollution.

A WHO synthesis attributed around 16 lakh healthy life years lost annually in Western Europe to traffic noise alone. This is because loud sounds disrupt sleep, elevate cortisol levels in the blood, render endothelial dysfunction, and impair the cognition of children near airports and arterial roads. India also has more densely packed cities, building acoustics that are less sensitive to the need to mitigate noise, and of course looser enforcement.

The World Health Organization has attributed 16% of disabling hearing loss in adults to occupational noise

**Rules against noise**

If tolerance is not a feature of India's political discourse, it remains a fixture of how Indians react to pollution.

One reason is the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules 2000, which set zone-wise limits and silence zones but which are rarely enforced. The Central Pollution Control Board only recently proposed financial penalties for violations – that too because much of the worst noise is generated by occasions that politicians would prefer not to police.

The Rules already accommodate religious and cultural observances. State governments can permit nighttime loudspeaker use between 10 pm and midnight on festive occasions for up to 15 days a year. However, public events routinely exceed decibel limits within the permitted hours, with sound systems often plonked in residential lanes and sometimes even outside hospitals.

No major political party has been willing to ask its supporters to organise a festival or procession but observe the limits. Parties fear that any restraint will be read as an attack on the faithful. It need not be and the political imagination should be capable of saying so.

Mr. Vijay has presented TVK as a fresh start for Tamil Nadu, unencumbered by the compromises of the Dravidian parties. At least for now, he possesses the political capital to set norms that his predecessors could not. One hopes the whistle that brought him to power could be the start of a new relationship with public sound that respects the right of people to work, relax, and sleep in peace.

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# The road to deliver women's safety

The Telangana government must ensure safety in both offline and online spaces

STATE OF PLAY

Serish Nanisetti

The case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act against Sai Bhagirath, the son of Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay, is now a test case for how Telangana deals with crimes against women and children. The case comes in the backdrop of the State government's active initiatives to make online and offline spaces safer for women.

Earlier, when a government official was targeted by a 'blind item' in a news channel, the government constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe it; a journalist of the TV channel was detained as a consequence of the move. Similarly, when an actress and her family were subjected to vicious online trolling and abuse, the police booked cases against 73 persons, and some of them have been arrested. Recently, a senior IPS officer went undercover and stood near a busy city junction at night, and at least 40 men tried to approach her. Further, data from the National Crime Records Bureau shows that there has been a 3.4% rise in registered cases of crime against women from 22,066 in 2022 to 24,495 in 2024 in Telangana.

In light of such incidents, the 'Stand with Her' initiative launched by the Chief Minister in March has mainstreamed conversation about casual sexism ranging from staring and stalking to sexist comments in the workplace. It has also opened up a role for men as allies in the effort to make society safer for women.

These steps show the seriousness with which the State

is dealing with social and online harassment of women. In an age of AI bot-led attacks on women and systemic baiting and trolling by groups justifying rapists and molesters, the action of the Telangana government is timely. However, in spite of such measures, the Chief Minister had to step in and ask why no action has been initiated in the case of the Union Minister's son even though the complaint was lodged on May 8.

This is the rub – the challenge to deal with both the powerful and the powerless in the same way under the law. A day after reports of the POCSO case surfaced, women's groups and political parties have hit the streets in Hyderabad demanding action. Between the narrative of action and the action itself is the long shadow cast by political compulsions and power-play. It remains to be seen whether the State can walk the talk when it comes to women's safety.

**Online attacks**

It also remains to be seen if the State can strike a balance between safeguarding free expression and curbing online targeting and harassment. Name-calling and personal attacks are not new to Indian politics or public life. What has changed is the scale, speed and anonymity with which online abuse unfolds. Women in positions of visibility are being increasingly subjected to orchestrated campaigns laced with sexualised slurs, threats and disinformation. The impact of social media trolling is not just confined to reputational harm; such attacks affect mental health, professional standing and personal safety, and are often intended to silence women from public engagement altogether. These attacks are often amplified by bots and anonymous accounts, making it harder for the cyber police to trace. The Telangana police, which is considered the first mover in technical fields, has accepted it as much. It has taken recourse to reaching out to tech platforms directly to identify the people behind certain handles; it has even invoked the dreaded Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) to get details of a social media handle that had allegedly been sharing misinformation.

Approving arrests and instituting an SIT carries social and administrative signalling. By stepping in when a serving civil servant was targeted, the government is asserting that institutional authority will not be undermined through digital smear campaigns. At the same time, the action following the abuse of an actress suggests an attempt to broaden that protection beyond the bureaucracy. Yet questions remain about whether similar urgency will be extended to less prominent women who face daily harassment.

Justice and a functioning law and order system is what people expect now. The Chief Minister's word on the POCSO case comes at the right moment. Can the Telangana government deliver justice and safety to all women, irrespective of the background of the complainants?

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# Goal attainment and youth aspirations are not aligned

Keeping track of youth aspirations against the system's ability to match them is critical if the country is serious about creating a productive labour force

DATA POINT

Garima Agarwal

India's ability to ride the cresting wave of the demographic dividend, before it recedes, depends critically on the education and employment choices of its 367 million young people. While surveys track such outcomes, little is known about how close outcomes are to initial goals. The State of Working India Report 2026, published by Azim Premji University, offers insights into youth aspirations and attainments.

The study utilises the Population Council's dataset – UDAYA: Understanding the Lives of Adolescents and Young Adults – which surveyed adolescents in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, the two Indian States with the largest youth populations. The sample of interest covers girls and boys aged 15-19 when first contacted in 2015-16 and tracks them three years later in 2018-19 when they are 18-22 years old. Of the full sample of 13,141 youngsters surveyed, aspirations were recorded only for 6,300 who were enrolled in education at the time of the survey. At ages 15-19 when the 6,300 youngsters were first contacted, about 72% aimed for at least graduate education. Three years later, this share grew to 84%. Moreover, aspiration levels were similar across gender, religion, and caste. Uniformly high educational aspirations across social groups indicate a convergence of aspiration windows, possibly due to economic progress and rapid expansion in access to the Internet and social media.

Educational attainments, in contrast, showed that not all dreams came true. In the duration between the two interviews, years of schooling completed grew by only 1-2 years on average instead of the expected three years. In making progress towards their educational goals, over half the sample fell short, on average by 1.7 years **(Table 2)**.

About 11% of the sample had already exited education by this time. Between the two interviews, another 40% exited formal education. While some may naturally exit on completing desired education, the average number of years of education attained at exit is only 8 years.

It is striking that while aspirations across wealth quintiles are not very different, attainments diverge sharply. Those in the poorest wealth quintile are more likely to fall short of their goals compared to those in the richest quintile. While the share of boys falling below their educational goals hovers between 50% and 60% across wealth quintiles, there is a noticeable variation for girls – from 66% in the poorest to 38% in the richest quintile **(Chart 1)**.

Over half the sample discontinues education before completing Class 12; this group is disproportionately composed of married girls. Married girls face greater barriers than their unmarried counterparts, even within the richest group. In fact, girls who remained unmarried by the time of the second interview (18-22 age group) were as ambitious as boys at setting goals and were more effective at meeting them **(Table 2)**.

In general, girls and boys have different reasons to discontinue education. Boys leave to join the labour market while girls exit at the time of marriage. Failure or disinterest and costs of education are some gender-neutral contributing factors.

**Quality of education**

A more troubling picture emerges when learning levels are examined. UDAYA employs tools designed by the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) for students aged 5-16 to measure proficiency in reading and math. UDAYA respondents were well beyond this age and would be expected to achieve the highest levels of proficiency in both dimensions. However, at age 15-19 when respondents were likely engaged in schooling, 70% of unmarried girls and boys could read a Class 2-level story against only 45% of married girls. The modest gender gap favouring unmarried girls in goal attainment disappears when it comes to learning levels. The share of those who could perform three-digit by one-digit division correctly was just over half for boys, 35% for unmarried girls and only 15% for married girls **(Table 3)**.

The uncomfortable question this raises is: are some groups aspiring for education beyond their reach? This two-State study shows that while aspirations are high, attainments have not kept pace across all groups. It is worth confirming whether this is a country-wide pattern, and focusing policy attention on removing structural barriers to access.

Education programs often default to exposing students to high-achieving role models ostensibly to inspire. While well-intentioned, simply raising aspirations with no realistic pathway to achieving them is short-sighted. These programs need to be supplemented with support for identifying interests, goal-setting, and skill-building. Stronger linkages between educational institutions and employers can provide prospective graduates with a more accurate picture of the labour market and facilitate a smoother transition into the workforce.

While it is tempting to only look at the motivational aspects of goals, consistent failure to achieve targets can cause frustration, which in turn may lead to lower effort and worse life outcomes. Keeping track of youth aspirations against the system's ability to match them is critical if we are serious about creating a motivated and productive labour force for the future.

*Garima Agarwal is an Assistant Professor of Economics at Azim Premji University, Bengaluru. The views expressed are personal.*

## Who falls short

The data for the charts were sourced from UDAYA - Understanding the Lives of Adolescents and Young Adults

**TABLE 1:** Educational aspirations during both rounds of interview (in %)

| Educational aspiration | First interview | Second interview |
|---|---|---|
| Below Grade 12 | 4.93 | 0.4 |
| Completed Class 12 but below graduate | 17.74 | 10.2 |
| Graduate | 53.3 | 60.35 |
| Post-graduate and above | 18.15 | 23.18 |
| Don't know | 5.87 | 5.87 |

**TABLE 2:** The gap between initial aspirations and subsequent attainment (in %)

| Attainment-goal gap | Unmarried boys | Unmarried girls | Married girls | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Met goal | 31.8 | 45.9 | 26.3 | 37.6 |
| Exceeded goal | 4.8 | 5.4 | 3.1 | 4.8 |
| Below goal | 54 | 44.2 | 67.5 | 51.8 |
| No stated goal | 9.4 | 4.5 | 3.1 | 5.9 |

**CHART 1:** The share of respondents who fell short of educational goals by wealth quintile and gender. Q1 = Top quintile; Q5 = Bottom quintile

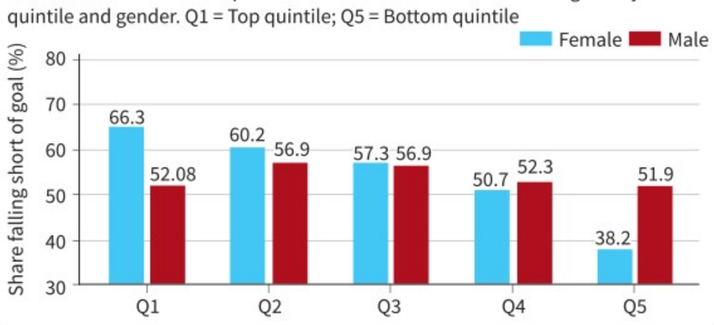


**TABLE 3:** Learning levels in reading and math (in %)

| Learning level | Unmarried boys | Unmarried girls | Married girls | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Reads a story | 73.97 | 71.84 | 44.65 | 59.74 |
| Solves division problems | 51.95 | 34.53 | 15.44 | 29.27 |

**Note:** Table 1 and 2 use respondents aged 15-19 years at the initial interview with recorded aspirations; marital status is as recorded at the time of the second interview (N = 6300). Table 3 reports the share of all respondents at the highest proficiency levels using UDAYA data for adolescents aged 15-19 years at the initial interview; marital status is as recorded at the second interview (N = 13141). Reading levels include recognition of letters, ability to read words, ability to read a short paragraph (Class 1 level text), and ability to read a longer 'story' (Class 2 level text). Math levels are recognition of single-digit numbers, double-digit numbers, and ability to perform a two-digit subtraction problem with borrowing and a three-digit by one-digit division problem. Children above Class 3 (older than 8 years) should be able to perform division based on NCERT textbook curriculum

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 12, 1976

## Baskets were in use 10,000 years ago

Bhim Betka (Ujjain), May 11: The mesolithic man who lived in this prehistoric site (near Bhopal) some 10,000 years ago, knew the use of baskets.

Baskets were used to carry fruits, hunted animals and tiny pigs. They were also used to carry children from one place to another.

Paintings showing the use of baskets and other artifacts and tools were found in recent excavations by archaeologists of the Vikram University.

Dr. V.S. Wakankar, who is in charge of the excavations, said money collection was popular during the mesolithic period. People moving from one site to another carrying their bags over the backs and heads had also been seen in the paintings. He said the mesolithic people after coming in contact with the agricultural chalcolithic communities (3,000 to 5,000 years ago) on the plains of Malwa appeared to have lost their art of active and dynamic paintings and their style showed a static emergence influenced by the chalcolithic pottery drawings.

Cave art of the upper palaeolithic age has also been found in about 300 caves and shelters explored in the rocky terrain.

At least 1,300 such shelters have so far been explored in this region.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 12, 1926

## Anglo-Indians and the elections

Calcutta, May 11: A mass meeting of the Anglo-Indians and Domiciled Europeans was held this evening at the Y.M.C.A (Wellington Branch) under the presidency of Col. Gidney.

The speakers dwelt on the necessity of Anglo-Indians asserting their right to vote and urged upon the members of the Community to see that their names were entered on the electoral roll for returning members of their community to the Provincial Council and the Assembly. Col. Gidney said that the time had come when women would have to throw aside their exclusiveness and come and compete with them in the open battle of election. He hoped that in the coming elections they would have one woman member returned to the Council. He then spoke at length on the status of the Anglo-Indian community.

## From Page One

### India has sufficient stocks of fuel: govt.

Citizens have been encouraged to use public transport, opt for carpooling, reduce unnecessary foreign travel, promote domestic tourism and avoid non-essential gold purchases for a year to help conserve foreign exchange reserves.

The Prime Minister also appealed to farmers to reduce chemical fertilizer use by 50%, adopt natural farming practices and expand the use of solar-powered irrigation pumps to cut diesel consumption in agriculture.

The Defence Minister stressed that India's priority was to ensure uninterrupted energy flows, maintain economic stability and secure maritime trade routes. He also called for faster expansion of renewable energy, diversification of fuel supplies and stronger investment in energy-efficient technologies.

### 'PM's austerity push admission of failure'

"When the conflict in West Asia erupted on February 28, the Congress highlighted every critical aspect of the crisis – the devastation of the economy, the depreciation of the rupee, soaring prices and shortages of petrol, diesel and LPG, scarcity of fertilizers, the looming threat to food security, the rising cost of medicines, the crisis facing MSMEs, and much more!" Mr. Kharge said on X.

Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav also called the Prime Minister's appeals an admission of failure. "As soon as elections are over, the government suddenly remembers the 'crisis'. In reality, there is only one crisis for the country and its name is BJP," he said in a post on X.

CPI general secretary D. Raja said, "Who is buying gold? People don't have money to eat, and he [Mr. Modi] is talking of gold. And what is work from home? Can a person cleaning the road or a construction worker work from home?"

Aam Admi Party (AAP) leader Sanjay Singh asked why the government claimed that there was no problem with regard to the stock of essential supplies before the Assembly elections. "Why did you not remember the crisis during the elections?" Mr. Singh asked.

### SC to hear pleas on SIR impact on Bengal polls

"I have prepared a chart. I just want to give you an impression of what I am saying. In one seat, the margin was 862 and 5,432 votes were under adjudication in appeals before the tribunals. Your Lordships had said that we could approach this court if such a situation happens," Mr. Bandhopadhyay said.

As on May 11, voters had filed over 34 lakh appeals in 19 Appellate Tribunals against their exclusion from the electoral roll on the ground of "logical discrepancies" in their personal details.

The tribunals could adjudicate only a few thousand appeals in time for the Assembly election. Though the apex court had ordered the constitution of these tribunals on March 11, they had started functioning only by April 13. The top court had even directed that those voters cleared by the tribunals as of April 21 and April 27 – two days before the first and second phases of polling – should be allowed to vote. However, a substantial number of appeals had remained unresolved.

"About results having been materially affected due to the deletions which are under adjudication, we require you to file an application for the issue to be taken up by us," Justice Bagchi told Mr. Bandhopadhyay.

### Tussle in AIADMK over supporting party chief

The churning in the AIADMK was also evident in the Assembly, going by the reception provided by the party legislators to Mr. Palaniswami and Mr. Velumani. Unlike on previous occasions when Mr. Palaniswami was accompanied by a large contingent of his colleagues while entering the Assembly premises, only a handful of MLAs escorted him this time. Mr. Velumani seen invariably with the former in the past, came later to the Assembly premises along with former Health Minister C. Vijayabaskar. Likewise, when the turn came for the former Chief Minister and Mr. Velumani to be sworn in as MLAs, the reception given to them by their colleagues, in the form of thumping of desks, was similar. The message was clear: the challenge to Mr. Palaniswami's leadership was quite open.

In the past four days, the residence of Mr. Shanmugam had become the centre of activity in the AIADMK, with a large number of MLAs and other office-bearers attending discussions on their future course of action. Mr. Shanmugam, who did not attend the oath-taking event in the morning, went to the Assembly around 3.15 p.m. and was sworn in as an MLA. The rebel MLAs also had a meeting at a guesthouse near Mr. Shanmugam's house. About two years ago, when the party had suffered a drubbing in the Lok Sabha election, a delegation of six leaders, including Mr. Shanmugam, Mr. Velumani and Mr. Viswanathan, had sought to impress upon Mr. Palaniswami that there should be reconciliation with former party leaders such as V.K. Sasikala.

# Three arrested from U.P., Bihar in Suvendu associate murder case

A UPI payment at a toll booth made by the suspects became an important lead for the police; the accused were produced at the Barasat district court in West Bengal; the court sent all three to 13-day police custody for further interrogation

**Shrabana Chatterjee**
KOLKATA

The accused arrested in connection with the murder of Chandranath Rath, personal assistant of CM Suvendu Adhikari, being taken from the court, at Barasat in North 24 Parganas on Monday. ANI

Three suspects in the murder of West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari's personal assistant, Chandranath Rath, have been arrested by the State police from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. A team of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) had already headed to the two States for further investigation. The arrested have been sent to a 13-day police custody.

"The three accused were brought to West Bengal and produced before the Barasat court in North 24 Paraganas district on Monday. They were remanded to 13-day police custody," a senior officer said. The Barasat court asked the police to produce them again on May 24, he said.

The three suspected killers were arrested by the Madhyamgram Police on Sunday, after officers acted based on specific leads. The police were able to track a UPI payment made by the suspects at a toll booth near Kolkata.

"Three suspects have so far been arrested in relation to the gruesome murder of Chandranath Rath on 6.5.26 at Madhyamgram," an official statement from the West Bengal Police said on Monday.

Based on inputs, Mayank Raj Mishra and Vicky Maurya were detained from Buxar in Bihar and the third suspect, Raj Singh, was detained from Ballia in Uttar Pradesh. All three faced interrogation and were subsequently arrested.

Cases have been registered under Section 103(1) (murder), Section 111(2)(a) (organised crime), Section 126(2) (wrongful restraint), Section 3(5) (criminal act done by a group), and Section 61(1) (criminal conspiracy) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Sections 25/27 of the Arms Act for wrongful possession of arms. The three accused suspects were produced at the Barasat district court on Monday. The court has sent all three to 13-day police custody for further interrogation.

**'More people involved'**

The police believe that there are more people involved and that this killing was the work of trained assassins who had planned beforehand.

The gruesome crime occurred on May 6, two days after Mr. Adhikari and the Bharatiya Janata Party came to power in West Bengal for the first time with a thumping majority.

Rath was shot three times at point-blank range around 10 p.m. on May 6, and was declared dead after reaching a nearby hospital. The police seized one car and one motorbike with fake number plates which were used during the crime. A two-wheeler has also been seized by the police.

Mr. Adhikari has said that Rath, his close aide, was murdered in cold blood because he was associated with him. "If he was not my aide or I did not defeat [outgoing Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee] in Bhabanipur, maybe they would not have targeted Rath," Mr. Adhikari claimed.

However, he did not directly blame the Trinamool Congress or any other leaders of the party, and said that the investigation was going in the right direction.

Rath's grieving mother told reporters that this was a revenge killing because her son worked for the BJP.

*(With PTI inputs)*

## ED arrests former Bengal Minister over jobs scam

**Shiv Sahay Singh**
KOLKATA

Former West Bengal Minister and Trinamool Congress leader Sujit Bose was on Monday arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in the municipal recruitment scam case.

Mr. Bose, who served as Minister of Fire and Emergency Services in the previous government led by Mamata Banerjee, was questioned for several hours by the Central investigation agency before being taken into custody.

"Sujit Bose had illegally recommended 150 candidates for different posts under the South Dum Dum Municipality in lieu of pecuniary benefits. The ED has traced direct proceeds of crime in the form of flats acquired by him in lieu of providing municipality jobs to various persons. Further, the ED has also traced huge deposits of cash in the bank accounts under his control," a statement by the agency said.

Mr. Bose would be produced on May 12 before a special court. He lost to the BJP's Sharadwat Mukherjee in the Bidhannagar Assembly segment by a margin of 37,330 votes.

# NCW flags 'toxic work culture', 'zero POSH compliance' at TCS office

**The Hindu Bureau**
MUMBAI

Nida Khan appears before the Nashik Road court in Nashik on Monday. The court has remanded her in 14-day judicial custody. ANI

The National Commission for Women (NCW) on Monday slammed Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) for its alleged failure to comply with the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) Act, observing that there was pervasive harassment, religious denigration, systemic bullying and exertion of fear and pressure imposed by a toxic leadership at its Nashik office.

Many victims who wanted to complain could not do so due to "complete absence of any formal complaint mechanism", the NCW's fact-finding committee said, adding Gen Z employees were more susceptible to anti-religious discourse.

Nine FIRs have so far been registered in cases of alleged rape, sexual harassment and forcible conversions at TCS Nashik, with the police arresting nine accused.

The NCW, which had taken *suo motu* cognisance of the matter, submitted a 50-page report to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Friday, containing 25 recommendations.

**Key observations**

The NCW observed that there was a deeply disturbing and toxic workplace environment marked by pervasive sexual harassment and abuse of authority at the workplace. "The accused persons had assumed effective control of TCS, Nashik. They used to target young and vulnerable women and harass them sexually, emotionally, and mentally," the report stated.

The fact-finding committee also alleged that the accused indulged in "degrading and belittling the faith in Hinduism and created a coercive atmosphere through repeated anti-religious commentary directed at women employees." The committee observed that the victims were scared as there was "significant social pressure, fear of exposing their families to social stigma, and above all, a complete absence of any formal complaint mechanism and trustworthy environment."

The NCW said in its report that Danish Sheikh, Tausif Akhtar, and Raza Memon were allegedly protected by Ashwini Chainani, the HR head and operations manager of the company.

The commission's key recommendations include action for failure to comply with POSH, effective HR and grievance redressal systems, job protection for complainants, regular monitoring of workplace safety and witness protection.

Meanwhile, Nida Khan, one of the accused, was sent to 14-day judicial custody until May 24. She was arrested on May 7.

# NEET-UG 2026 under scanner as Rajasthan SOG probes 'paper leak'

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Following allegations that the question paper for the NEET-UG 2026 held on May 3 was leaked, the National Testing Agency (NTA) said it was aware of reports regarding the action initiated by the Rajasthan Special Operations Group (SOG) in connection with alleged irregularities.

The alleged irregularities involve "a guess paper" circulated before the entrance test that reportedly had questions which closely matched the actual paper.

Vishal Bansal, Additional Director General, Rajasthan Police SOG, said the agency was verifying whether the circulation of the material was linked to organised crime.

According to the Rajasthan Police, the alleged guess paper had been circulating among aspirants for nearly a month before the test, distributed through word of mouth and photocopies. "We also found traces of the guess paper travelling digitally through WhatsApp chats of aspirants," Mr. Bansal said.

He said the 150-page PDF document had 410 questions which matched those that appeared in the final test paper. No arrests had been made so far, he added.

**NTA's response**

"The NTA is conscious of the anxiety reports of this nature can cause, and we ask candidates to allow [investigating] agencies space to complete their work. Any necessary steps will be taken in consultation with the Ministry of Education," the NTA said in an official statement.

NTA officials said that on the late evening of May 7, four days after the examination, the agency received inputs regarding alleged malpractice. "These inputs were escalated by the NTA to Central agencies on the morning of May 8 for independent verification and necessary action," an official said.

"The NTA confirms that it is working closely with them in a fully supportive role, providing all examination-related data and technical assistance required," it said.

The statement further said that the examination was conducted as scheduled and under full security protocol.

Investigators said the question bank allegedly originated from a medical student from Churu studying in Kerala, and it was passed to an associate in Sikar on May 1, and then to a paying guest facility operator, before being widely circulated among aspirants paying between ₹30,000 and ₹5 lakh.

The Rajasthan SOG has interrogated 13 suspects from Dehradun, Sikar and Jhunjhunu over the past four days.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi alleged on X that over 22 lakh students were affected and that the exam was "compromised."

# Govt. to see if schools teaching religion are charitable bodies: SC

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The court said the issue was within the domain of the Ministry of Education.

The Supreme Court on Monday left it to the government to consider whether schools which impart religious instruction should be brought within the ambit of constitutional provisions dealing with charitable or religious establishments, rather than being recognised as 'secular or professional' educational institutions.

A Bench headed by Justice Dipankar Datta said the issue was within the domain of the Ministry of Education, and the court need not intervene for now.

The petition filed by petitioner-advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay sought a direction to declare that "any institution which imparts religious instructions to promote any religion is covered under Article 26(a) and not under Articles 19(1)(g) or Article 30(1) of the Constitution".

Article 26(a) is one of the 'freedom-of-religion' rights. It says that a religious denomination or 'any section thereof' would have the right to establish and maintain institutions for religious and charitable purposes. This, if done, would mean that schools imparting religious instruction would be subject to the restrictions of public order, health and morality.

**School curriculum**

The petition has argued that schools which impart religious instructions must not come under the right to profession or occupation enshrined in Article 19 (1)(g), nor should they be brought within the ambit of the right given to minority communities to establish and administer "educational institutions".

The petition has clearly sought a dichotomy based on whether or not religious instruction was part of a school's curriculum. It is not clear where schools imparting both secular and religious education, latter being left to the choice of the students, would fit.

Article 30(1) allows minority religious communities to establish educational institutions which impart secular and religious education. The Article reads as, "All minorities, whether based on religion or language, shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice".

The petition said the court must declare that 'educational institutions of their choice' in Article 30 (1) should be interpreted as 'secular/professional educational institutions of their choice' and not 'religious educational institutions of their choice'.

**Monitoring mechanism**

Mr. Upadhyay said the Centre must have a mechanism to "register, recognise, supervise and monitor institutions imparting education to children up to 14 years". "This is an issue of national security as young kids form the future of the nation, and can be brainwashed/manipulated in unregistered institutions," the petition said.

It also raised doubts if the quality of education could be ensured by unregistered and unrecognised institutions.

"The safety and security of children is paramount. It is the State's onus to prevent trafficking of children by unregistered and unrecognised institutions at the threshold," the petition said.

## West Bengal's CEO made State's Chief Secretary

**The Hindu Bureau**
KOLKATA

Manoj Kumar Agarwal, who conducted the West Bengal Assembly election as the State's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), was on Monday appointed Chief Secretary of the State.

Mr. Agarwal is a 1990-batch IAS officer of the West Bengal cadre. During his tenure as the State's CEO, the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) was held, which saw around 91 lakh voters removed from the electoral rolls in the State.

While he drew praise for holding polls without much violence, questions were raised about lakhs of voters being unable to exercise their right to vote.

The decision of the new BJP government to elevate the CEO to the top post raised eyebrows in political circles.

Trinamool MP Sagarika Ghose described the development "outrageous and brazen". "...The so-called 'neutral umpire' is rewarded with the post of top bureaucrat of the @BJP4India dispensation... Does anyone still SERIOUSLY believe #bengalelections2026 were free and fair?" Ms. Ghose posted on social media.

# Suvendu orders rollout of Central schemes in Bengal

New BJP government's first Cabinet meet has also decided to transfer land to the BSF for fencing along the border with Bangladesh; portfolios allocated to Ministers who took oath with the CM

**Shiv Sahay Singh**
KOLKATA

Chairing his first Cabinet meeting on Monday after taking oath as West Bengal Chief Minister on Saturday, Suvendu Adhikari said his government had decided to transfer land to the Border Security Force for erecting a fence along the Bangladesh border. He also approved immediate implementation of Central schemes such as the Ayushman Bharat and the Census exercise in the State.

**Taking charge:** West Bengal CM Suvendu Adhikari holds a review meeting with top State administrative officers on Monday. PTI

During the day, the Chief Minister also allocated portfolios to the five Ministers who took oath with him. Dilip Ghosh, former Bengal BJP president and Kharagpur Sadar MLA, was given charge of the Panchayat and Rural Development Department, besides Animal Resource Development and Agricultural Marketing. Asansol Dakshin MLA Agnimitra Paul will hold charge of Women and Child Development and Social Welfare and Municipal Affairs Departments.

Ashok Kirtania, a prominent Matua face in the Cabinet and MLA for Bongaon Uttar, was given charge of Food and Supplies and Cooperation Departments, and Khudiram Tudu, the MLA for Ranibandh who hails from a tribal community, was assigned the responsibility of Tribal Development, Backward Classes Welfare, and Minority Affairs and Madrasa Education Departments.

Nishit Pramanik, who was elected from Mathabhanga in north Bengal, got the North Bengal Development and Youth Services and Sports portfolios.

Speaking to pressperson, the Chief Minister said that no social welfare scheme started by the previous government would be stopped.

Later in the day, at a meeting with MLAs-elect of the party, Mr. Adhikari said that Annapurna Yojana, under which women in the State will receive monthly financial assistance of ₹3,000, will be rolled out from June 1.

"We took six decisions at the Cabinet [meeting]. We are committed towards the well-being of 321 families of martyrs who laid down their lives as BJP supporters. We have started land transfer to the BSF for securing borders. The Chief Secretary and the Secretary of the State's Land and Land Revenue Department have been asked to complete the process of land transfer within the next 45 days," he said.

"The process has started to actively implement major Central schemes in the State, including the [Ayushman Bharat] Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana," Mr. Adhikari noted.

### Census launch

Mr. Adhikari alleged that the previous Mamata Banerjee-led dispensation had ignored a circular, dated June 16, 2025, that was sent from the Office of the Registrar-General of India under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, intimating about the impending Census exercise in the State.

"The previous government kept sitting on the file; we are starting the Census in West Bengal," Mr. Adhikari said.

"The Trinamool Congress government kept the Census exercise on hold in Bengal so that women's reservation could be stopped," he added.

# Trinamool flags murders, vandalism amid post-poll violence in West Bengal

**Shrabana Chatterjee**
KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress leadership has again raised allegations of post-poll violence in West Bengal, with deaths, arson, and vandalism continuing in parts of the State. Statues of tribal leaders Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu had been vandalised in north Bengal, Trinamool general secretary Abhishek Banerjee alleged.

"This is not mere vandalism. It is a direct attack on Adivasi pride, history and the identity of Bengal's tribal communities..," he wrote in a social media post, and shared a video of the allegedly vandalised statues.

On Sunday, the party also claimed that one of its workers, Sahadeb Bag (40) from Goghat in Hooghly, had been killed amid political violence.

Post-poll violence has been reported from multiple parts of the State, with both the Trinamool and BJP claiming their workers and members have been affected by the clashes.

The Trinamool alleged that in Purba Medinipur's Khejuri, at least 10 shops had been set ablaze by "BJP miscreants" on Sunday night. "This is the true face of the politics preached by @AmitShah and @BJP4India - division, fear and targeted violence carried out with complete impunity. Where are the Central Forces now?" Mr. Banerjee posted on social media. This comes a day after he made similar allegations on the "barbaric" torching of "at least 60 shops" on Saturday night in Khejuri.

A damaged market section after BJP supporters allegedly bulldozed a few meat shops amid victory celebrations in Kolkata on May 6. PTI

The local BJP MLA, Subrata Paik from Khejuri, denied the allegations, and seeking a detailed probe, said that the fire may have been due to short circuit.

Among the most talked about incidents, Chandranath Rath, the personal assistant of Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, was shot dead at point blank range on May 6.

In Dakshin Howrah, BJP workers returned a Trinamool party office back to Trinamool members. "We do not believe in forcibly capturing someone's party office.. Neither have we done this before, nor will we do it now," a local BJP leader in Howrah told reporters while "officially returning" the office to Trinamool party workers.

This comes after several Trinamool offices had already been taken over by the BJP, and many were vandalised after the May 4 election results.

Central forces were to be retained in West Bengal at least for 60 days after the polls. Though the election was largely peaceful, violence rose sharply immediately after the results were published.

# Ahead of UAE visit, PM to meet Iran FM and BRICS Ministers

**Suhasini Haidar**
NEW DELHI

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi will travel to New Delhi this week to attend the BRICS Foreign Ministers meeting on May 14-15 and is expected to call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi before the latter's visit to the UAE, diplomatic sources confirmed to *The Hindu*. Mr. Araghchi, who will arrive on Wednesday, is expected to meet the Prime Minister in a joint call-on along with other BRICS Ministers from Brazil, Russia, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, and Indonesia on Thursday.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi is scheduled to arrive in New Delhi on Wednesday. AP

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi is likely to be in Beijing for the visit of U.S. President Donald Trump set for the same dates. Officials did not confirm whether UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan will travel to Delhi for the BRICS meet or remain in Abu Dhabi to receive Mr. Modi. The flurry of diplomatic meetings at the highest levels indicates India is stepping up its outreach amid the West Asia war, which has had a deep economic impact on the nation and the region.

Mr. Modi's visit to the UAE will come at the start of his six-day five-nation tour to Europe from May 15 to 20. He is expected to visit the Netherlands, Sweden, Italy, and Norway for bilateral visits.

In Oslo, he will attend the Nordic-India Summit including leaders of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden, and Norway.

"This visit underlines the importance of cooperation with India, Norway and the Nordic countries in these times of global instability. We stand together in promoting international cooperation and a rules-based world order," Norway's Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre said announcing Mr. Modi's visit, indicating that the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine, Iran, and Gaza are expected to be discussed during the summit.

The engagements in Delhi and Abu Dhabi will be particularly significant as they come amid a pause in the war in West Asia, and just as the government begins to implement austerity measures on oil and foreign exchange and travel, proposed by Mr. Modi at a public meeting in Hyderabad on Sunday.

### Iran-UAE tensions

Mr. Modi's meeting with Mr. Araghchi, just ahead of his talks with UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed, comes a week after tensions between Iran and the UAE escalated when Iran attacked the Fujairah oil facility with missiles.

India condemned the strikes, while Iran indicated that it was targeting the UAE for its support to the U.S. after U.S.'s warships attacked Iranian naval boats in the Strait of Hormuz.

This is Mr. Araghchi's first visit to India in a year.

In March, a few days after the U.S.-Israel strikes on Iran began, his deputy Saeed Khatibzadeh had visited Delhi and met External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. Mr. Araghchi and Mr. Jaishankar have spoken over the telephone five times since the conflict began. Of particular concern for India is the continued blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, with 13 Indian ships and 340 seafarers stuck at the strait, and energy, fertilizer and other shipments also held up.

# CPI(M) defends Vijayan, says leadership is collective

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Pinarayi Vijayan alone need not take "moral responsibility" for the Left Democratic Front (LDF)'s defeat in Kerala, CPI(M) general secretary M.A. Baby said on Monday, emphasising that the party functions as a collective entity and that Mr. Vijayan led the campaign as its senior-most member.

Mr. Baby did not clarify who within the LDF will occupy the Leader of the Opposition position, amid widespread speculation over whether Mr. Vijayan will do so. The CPI has demanded the post of Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Baby's remarks come against the backdrop of comments by CPI State secretary Binoy Viswam at the conclusion of his party's two-day national council meeting in New Delhi, where he said the electoral defeat was a warning that communist organisations must give priority to the people. He called for an evaluation of whether the Left's cadres and those close to it had distanced themselves from the movement.

At a press conference at the party headquarters at the end of a two-day meeting of the CPI(M)'s Polit Bureau, Mr. Baby, responding to a question on whether Mr. Vijayan should resign from the Polit Bureau and Central Committee taking responsibility for the LDF's defeat, said, "Why should he take moral responsibility in Kerala? Our party is a collective entity."

**Power puzzle:** Speculation is rife over whether Pinarayi Vijayan will lead the Opposition in Kerala. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

He further emphasised that Mr. Vijayan, the senior-most leader both by age and experience, led the campaign in the State by virtue of his position. "Had we won, we would have taken a call on who would be the Chief Minister," he said.

Mr. Baby described the LDF's defeat as "shocking", notwithstanding what he called the commendable work done by the government over a decade while battling a "vindictive" Union government that tried to financially strangulate the State. He termed the BJP's victory in three seats in Kerala a "disturbing development".

### 'Fractured process'

He further said the BJP's victory in West Bengal was due not only to anti-incumbency against the Mamata Banerjee government, but also to the Special Intensive Revision exercise.

"The entire electoral process in India today is highly mutilated, fractured and without credibility," Mr. Baby said.

The CPI's national council also conducted a review on May 9 and 10. At a press conference at the conclusion of the meeting, CPI general secretary D. Raja underlined the need to build "broad-based mass resistance against the anti-people, authoritarian and divisive policies of the RSS-BJP regime."

"At a time when the country is witnessing unprecedented unemployment, soaring prices of essential commodities, deepening agrarian distress, growing attacks on workers' rights, communal polarisation and systematic assaults on democratic institutions and federalism, it is necessary to intensify direct political engagement with the masses," Mr. Raja said.

# New labour codes greatest setback for workers' rights since Independence: Cong.

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday criticised the Centre over the full operationalisation of the four labour codes, alleging that they marked the "greatest setback for workers' rights since Independence" and would weaken job security and unionisation.

In a statement, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said that the Narendra Modi government had, "in its typical cowardly fashion", waited for the conclusion of the Assembly elections before notifying the final rules for the labour codes through Gazette notifications issued on May 8 and 9.

Mallikarjun Kharge

### 'Hire-and-fire policies'

"For crores of India's workers, these codes promise a future of hire-and-fire policies, contract employment, and limited space for unionisation," Mr. Kharge said. He alleged that the government had drafted and implemented the "anti-worker" labour codes without consultation and had not even convened the Indian Labour Conference since 2015.

"These codes, which benefit only the Prime Minister's industrialist friends, are the greatest setback for workers' rights since Independence," he said.

Mr. Kharge said the Congress remained committed to its five-point 'Shramik Nyay' agenda, which includes restoration and expansion of MGNREGA to urban areas, a national minimum wage of ₹400 per day, a Right to Health law providing universal health coverage of ₹25 lakh, and comprehensive social security measures for unorganised workers, including life and accident insurance.

He reiterated the party's commitment to stopping "contractualisation" in core government functions and reviewing what he termed the Modi government's dilution of labour laws.

The Centre completed the process of implementing the four labour codes after publishing the final rules in the Gazette recently.

The four codes – the Code on Wages, 2019; the Industrial Relations Code, 2020; the Code on Social Security, 2020; and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 – came into effect on November 21, 2025.

The Central government has said that the codes seek to modernise and consolidate 29 labour laws into a simplified framework while ensuring minimum wages and universal social security for workers.

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## INBRIEF

### SC launches 'One Case One Data' and 'Su Sahay' chatbot

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Monday announced in open court the launch of a major digital initiative – "One Case One Data" – to integrate the judicial administration at every level, from the taluk court to the top court, into a unified system. The CJI said the mechanism is aimed at creating a more comprehensive and interconnected digital database across courts. The CJI also announced the launch of 'Su Sahay', an artificial intelligence (AI)-powered assistance chatbot integrated with the Supreme Court website to facilitate easier access to justice and court-related services for litigants.

### Six dead, four injured as car falls into gorge in Himachal

Six people, five of them tourists from Gujarat, were killed and four sustained serious injuries as the car they were travelling in plunged into a deep gorge at Kakira in Chamba district in the early hours of Monday, the police said. Expressing grief, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu directed the district administration to provide all possible assistance to the affected families and ensure the best possible treatment to the injured, a statement issued in Shimla said. PTI

# VB-G RAM G to take effect on July 1

All 'rules, notifications, schemes, orders and guidelines' made under MGNREGA will stand repealed from July 1; however, the government did not clarify crucial aspects, including objective parameters and formula for deciding the normative budget, which will determine the share of each State

**Sobhana K. Nair**
NEW DELHI

Sounding the final bugle on the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, the Union government on Monday notified that from July 1, all "rules, notifications, schemes, orders and guidelines" made under the law will stand repealed, and the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) [VB-G RAM G] will come into force.

Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan expressed confidence that the move marks the dawn of a "new era in the lives of labourers". He said the scheme would prove to be a milestone in fulfilling the resolve to build "developed villages" as a foundation for a "developed India".

He also noted that the process of framing the rules for the new Act is under way following consultations with the States. "No labourer is deprived of employment during this transition phase. Comprehensive arrangements have already been put in place to guarantee this," the Minister said. Most States will have a maximum of six months to complete the necessary preparations, he added.

The MGNREGA, enacted under the Congress-led UPA, was part of a set of welfare laws that emerged from the National Advisory Committee. The new rural employment scheme upends several MGNREGA frameworks, including its demand-based approach stretching the budget to match the demand on the ground.

**No clarity on details**

Though the government issued a note answering frequently asked questions, it did not clarify crucial aspects, including the objective parameters and formula for deciding the normative budget, which will determine how much each State receives. Under MGNREGA, the Centre paid 100% of the wage bill; under the new scheme, the expenditure will be split between the Centre and the States in a 60:40 ratio for most States.

Members of the MGNREGA Defence Alliance, Karnataka, staging a protest against the VB-G RAM G Act in Bengaluru in February. J. ALLEN EGENUSE

The VB-G RAM G legislation was passed by Parliament in December last year, without pre-legislative consultations. After its passage, the government has held weekly meetings with State rural development departments to build the infrastructure required for implementation.

The new scheme increases the statutory employment guarantee from 100 days to 125 days in every financial year.

The government clarified that existing job cards that are e-KYC verified will remain valid until Gramin Rozgar Guarantee cards are issued. As per a recent study by LibTech, a consortium of activists and academics, as of May 7, 2026, 11.58 crore registered workers (45.4%) and 0.95 crore active workers (9.5%) are yet to complete e-KYC. "Workers shall not be denied employment merely due to pending e-KYC, and facilitation mechanisms have been provided for completion of e-KYC, including at worksites, wherever necessary," the government note said.

It also clarified that workers may continue to demand employment orally, in writing through the existing Form-6 framework, or through digital platforms. Provisions carried over from MGNREGA, such as unemployment compensation in case of failure to provide work, will continue.

Attendance will continue to be captured through the National Mobile Monitoring System, despite concerns over reliance on digital systems in areas with patchy internet coverage. Ongoing works under MGNREGA as on the date of commencement may continue under the new Act. Where ongoing works are insufficient to meet demand, new works consistent with Schedule I of the new Act may be taken up.

**Blackout period**

The legislation provides for a blackout period of up to 60 days, to be notified by the States, ostensibly to ensure the availability of agricultural labour during peak sowing and harvesting seasons. This clause has drawn criticism for reducing workers' bargaining power.

## 2 cheetahs released into wild in Kuno National Park

**Press Trust of India**
SHEOPUR

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Monday released two female cheetahs brought from Botswana into an open forest in the Kuno National Park following the completion of their quarantine period.

The reintroduction of cheetahs brought from Nigeria, South Africa, and now Botswana is achieving consistent success, and today Madhya Pradesh has earned nationwide recognition as the 'Cheetah State', the CM said on the occasion.

This will give impetus to 'Project Cheetah' and add another important chapter to India's wildlife conservation history, an official said.

The objective of the project is to restore the endangered animal species in the state, increase their numbers, and prepare them for free hunting and roaming.

# China may not join alliance on conservation of big cats

**Jacob Koshy**
NEW DELHI

China is unlikely to be a part of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), a global initiative spearheaded by India to focus concerted attention on conserving big cats, according to senior officials in the Environment Ministry.

The big cats consist of the tiger, lion, leopard, cheetah, puma, jaguar, and snow leopard.

Saudi Arabia has confirmed its membership of IBCA, an official said.

"We have sent an invitation to China but there has been no development on it yet," an official told *The Hindu*.

The IBCA, which is being spearheaded by India, is to hold its first-ever summit here from June 1-3, with representatives from 95 countries expected to participate. As of now, there are 24 member countries, three observer countries and several other 'range' countries as part of the alliance.

Independent scientific assessments show China has a very small wild tiger population, mostly restricted to the Russian border. AP

Independent scientific assessments indicate that China, at present, has a very small wild tiger population, with nearly all of them restricted to the northeast borderlands with Russia. These are largely Amur (Siberian) tigers.

Camera-trap and landscape studies by Chinese and international researchers estimate roughly 50-70 wild Amur tigers in China.

India had about 3,167 wild tigers in 2022 – overwhelmingly the Bengal tiger. The tigers are spread across a network of reserves and forest landscapes from the Himalayas to the Western Ghats and central India.

Though IBCA members have no financial commitments, countries will be expected to, among other things, coordinate action through programmes and activities aimed at improving the state of habitats, prey, including big cat protection and conservation, innovation, research, development and capacity building; share relevant information about big cat protection and conservation programmes.

## EC set to roll out Phase 3 of SIR in the 'coming days'

**Press Trust of India**
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission is set to roll out phase three of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voters' list in the next "coming days", officials said on Monday, adding that it could cover the remaining 22 States and Union Territories (U.T.s) covering nearly 40 crore electors.

The poll authority had held back its rollout due to Assembly elections in Kerala, Assam, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal held last month.

So far, SIR had been carried out in 10 States and three U.T.s, namely, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Goa and Bihar. Sixty crore of the nearly 99 crore voters have been covered in the clean-up exercises of these voters' list.

# Visual media industry is shaping the world: experts

**The Hindu Bureau**
CHENNAI

Visual media is not only an exciting profession but also one of the most powerful industries shaping the world today, experts said at a webinar titled "Visual media careers: where to start and how to succeed".

Presented by the Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), Chennai and *The Hindu Education Plus* as part of a career counselling series, the webinar provided students and aspiring professionals with insights into the industry, how it functions, emerging trends, and opportunities available.

Dispelling fears about AI taking over jobs, the panellists asserted that AI could never replace creativity. However, creative people who were skilled at AI tools could replace those who lacked the knowledge, they said.

Padmanabhan T., Associate Professor, Department of Visual Communication, School of Media Arts and Technology, VIT Chennai, described the world of visual media as one filled with impactful storytelling, creativity, influence, technology, and endless opportunity. Outlining the four-year B.Sc. programme in visual communication, multimedia, and animation offered by his institute, he said the media school functioned as a working creative industry and prepared students for careers that were still emerging, given the rapid expansion and evolution of different media platforms.

C. Pichandy, Eminent Professor – Media and Communications, and former Head, Department of Communications, PSG College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore, said every sector in the future would be visually driven. The growth potential of the media and entertainment market was projected at $1 trillion by 2030.

He said students would have to be creative, competent, and updated with the latest technological skills as print, visual, audio, and digital media would all combine to offer plenty of opportunities.

Suresh Chandra Menon, filmmaker, actor, and producer, said micro-dramas on the vertical format was already a $1.4-billion industry in the U.S. Describing visual media as a fascinating canvas, he urged students to shore up networking skills and create their own content. He said students should explore platforms that offered a scope to showcase creativity, especially since mobile phones have tremendously democratised content.

The webinar can be viewed at newsth.live/THVITVY

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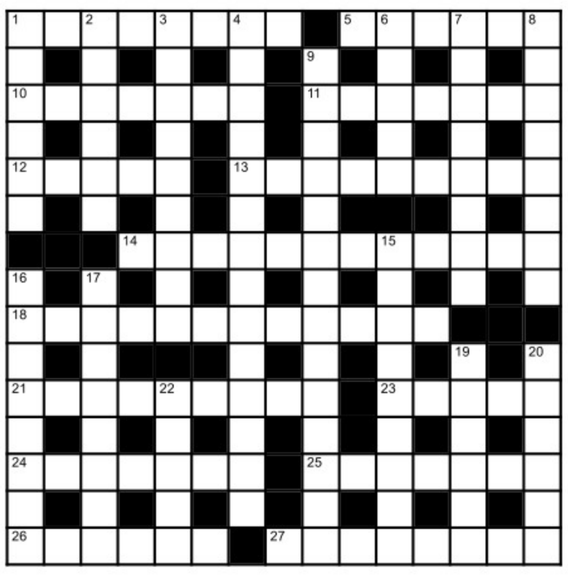


**Across**

**1** Most annoyed with extremely obnoxious head of syndicate in summit (8)
**5** Gorgeous associate goes bare, intoxicated after drink (6)
**10** One captivated by young lady working in office (7)
**11** See 3 Down
**12** Left to inquire about patient at centre for eye surgery (5)
**13** Extremely tense guys entering a club for relaxation (9)
**14** Stylish fellow on island lied about relationships for affairs (12)
**18** A few words after fellow involved in deceit gets long term of imprisonment (4,8)
**21** One evaluating flight, spin etc in cricket match with plan to trap India's opener (4,5)
**23** Group going topless on excellent Hawaiian island (5)
**24** Large lizards in Antigua, nasty (7)
**25** CIA list about right-leaning characters (7)
**26** Rodent in hotel behind park caught by energetic person (6)
**27** Moves forward, kills extremely peculiar female monsters (8)

**Down**

**1** Observe beautiful European falling for Prince (6)
**2** Torment in sob session (6)
**3/11** What tortoise might do to take a risk (5,4,4,3)
**4** Make a big thing of American involved in deplorable liaisons with teens (14)
**6** Fun clearly to host a relative (5)
**7** Old erotic novel is popular (8)
**8** Venture by American group backing Tesla's trial of a product in final stage (4,4)
**9** Promising band in arena after struggle (10,4)
**15** Charge stylish college head ensnaring university student (9)
**16** Dope, heroin and gin? Horrible habit (8)
**17** Bad defeat for one on cricket field (3,5)
**19** Pranks by comic in cast (6)
**20** Wife is winner of American beauty contest (6)
**22** Tubular pasta in stall, extremely nice (5)

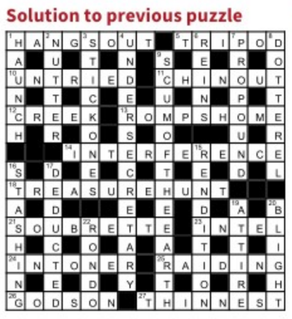
## SUDOKU

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | | | 7 | | 3 | 6 | | 4 |
| | 9 | 5 | | | | | | |
| | | 6 | | | 9 | | | |
| | | 1 | | | 6 | | 4 | |
| | 7 | | | | | | 6 | |
| | 3 | | 8 | | | 1 | | |
| | | | 6 | | | 2 | | |
| | | | | | | 8 | 3 | |
| 2 | | 7 | 3 | | 8 | | | 1 |

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

No.SS6878 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

**Solution to previous puzzle**



**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| 3 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 8 |
| 4 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 2 |
| 5 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 3 |
| 1 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 9 |
| 2 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 1 |
| 6 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 4 |
| 7 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| 9 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 5 |

## FAITH

### Essence of Bhagavad Gita

Lord Krishna, taking Arjuna as the representative of the individual soul (*jivatma*), imparts the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita to guide humanity in overcoming inner mental struggles and moral dilemmas.

In a discourse, Thirukudanthai Dr. Venkatesh explained the essence of the Bhagavad Gita as interpreted by the great philosopher-saint Sri Ramanujacharya. The 18 chapters of the Gita are divided into three divisions, each containing six chapters, and a profound connection is drawn between the final verse of the first chapter and the concluding verse of the eighteenth chapter – showing the transformation from despair to enlightenment. The first division (chapters 1-6) focuses on self-knowledge. It emphasises Karma Yoga (selfless action) and Jnana Yoga (knowledge). The individual realises that they are the eternal *Atman*, distinct from the physical body. By performing duties without attachment to results, the mind is purified, leading to self-realisation.

The second division (chapters 7-12) focuses on knowing the Supreme Being. It highlights Bhakti Yoga (devotion) and describes the nature and divine qualities of the Supreme Being, identified as Sriman Narayana. The goal is to shift from self-centered awareness to deep contemplation and devotion to God. The third division (chapters 13-18) presents the path of surrender. It explains the relationship between *Chit* (individual soul), *Achit* (material world), and *Ishwara* (Supreme Lord). This section culminates in the doctrine of Prapatti (*Saranagati*) – complete surrender at the Lord's feet – as the ultimate means to attain liberation (*moksha*).

## INBRIEF

### No bailout for OMCs in sight as under-recoveries mount

As of date, the government has no proposal to accord a bailout package to oil-marketing companies (OMCs), Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary at the Union Petroleum Ministry, reiterated at the daily inter-ministerial briefing about the situation in West Asia. "There is no proposal for any support [package] to OMCs right now," she stated. Concerns on under-recoveries, that is, the difference between the cost of manufacturing a retail fuel (as petrol, diesel and LPG) and its sale price, have escalated since the supply pressures induced by the West Asia crisis. Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri posted on social media that OMCs were staring at under-recoveries of ₹2 lakh crore, with losses of up to ₹1 lakh crore in the ongoing quarter. "To protect consumers, they are selling final products at a lower cost, leading to massive mounting losses of up to ₹1,000 crore per day," he stated.

### Markets slip almost 2%, rupee slides 0.7% on West Asia issue

Investors got back to selling Indian stocks aggressively after a few weeks of calm as U.S. President Donald Trump rejected Iran's response to the peace proposals and PM Narendra Modi "advised" citizens to cut buying forex depleting goods and services. Nifty 50 and Sensex fell 1.5% and 1.7% closing at 23,815.5 and 76,015.28-points respectively. The rupee slid 0.7% closing at ₹95.15 compared with ₹94.5 on Friday based on spot market data from Clearing Corporation of India. Brent crude futures rose 2.2%, crossing $103/barrel. "Indian equities are expected to stay cautious near term amid escalating geopolitical tensions, with stock- and sector-specific action likely to continue alongside the final leg of the Q4FY26 earnings season," said Siddhartha Khemka, head of research, wealth management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd.

# As PM Modi calls for pause, spend on travel abroad already seen sliding

Reserve Bank of India data show that the real growth areas in terms of foreign spending are purchases of immovable assets abroad and investments in foreign debt and equity; spending on gifts sent abroad contracted 12.7% and 19.1% in the first 11 months of 2025-26 and 2024-25 respectively

**T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan**
NEW DELHI

At a time when PM Narendra Modi has urged Indians not to travel abroad and give up on foreign weddings for at least a year, official data show foreign spending by Indian tourists actually slid in the last two years.

In fact, an analysis of data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) show the real growth in dollar outflow was coming from high-networth individuals (HNIs) investing in movable and immovable foreign assets, rather than from holiday-goers or those getting married in foreign locations.

Addressing a gathering in Telangana on Sunday, Mr. Modi gave a seven-point list of suggestions to the Indian public to help the Indian economy and government during the ongoing West Asia crisis.

"The growing culture of weddings abroad, travelling abroad, and vacationing abroad is becoming prevalent among the middle class. We must decide that during this time of crisis, we should postpone travelling abroad for at least a year," Mr. Modi said as one of his suggestions.

RBI data on the expenditure under the Liberalised Remittances Scheme, the only formal pathway under which Indians can spend abroad, shows a total of $26.4 billion spent under this scheme in the first 11 months (April 2025 to February 2026) of 2025-26. This was 2.3% lower than what was spent in the same period of 2024-25.

**Lower spend**

Of this, spending on foreign travel stood at $15.3 billion, the largest category, but this amount was 3.1% lower in April 2025-February 2026 than in the same period of the previous year, which itself was 1% lower than in April 2024-February 2025.

Similarly, spending on gifts sent abroad contracted 12.7% and 19.1% in the first 11 months of 2025-26 and 2024-25, respectively.

**Debt, equity investment**

On the other hand, investment by Indians in foreign debt and equity surged almost 59% to $2.2 billion between April 2025-February 2026. For context, this figure was $621 million in the first 11 months of 2021-22. Similarly, the amount spent on the purchase of immovable assets abroad jumped more than 76% in the first 11 months of 2025-26, to $490 million. This stood at $96.7 million in the same period of 2021-22.

# 'Boost inbound travel instead of just curbing overseas trips'

**Jagriti Chandra**
NEW DELHI

Instead of merely urging Indians to avoid traveling abroad, the government must also focus on attracting more foreign tourists to the country to boost foreign exchange earnings as inbound tourism is still below pre-pandemic levels, the tourism industry said in response to the Prime Minister's appeal to postpone overseas travel for a year as part of austerity measures amid the West Asia conflict.

The PM, during an address in Hyderabad on Sunday, urged citizens to exercise restraint in fuel use by embracing work from home (WFH) and electric vehicles, pause gold purchase and defer foreign travel for a year as an act of patriotism.

"While saving foreign exchange by reducing outbound travel is understandable, equal emphasis must be placed on earning foreign exchange by attracting more international tourists to India," says the Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality. This needs "easing visa restrictions, improving connectivity and significantly strengthening India's tourism promotion abroad."

# Jewellery sector bats for gold monetisation scheme

**M. Soundariya Preetha**
COIMBATORE

The solution to the pressure on foreign reserves does not lie in reducing demand for gold but in unlocking the existing gold through a transparent and regulated gold monetisation scheme (GMS), said the All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) chairman Rajesh Rokde on Monday.

Reacting to PM Narendra Modi's call to citizens on Sunday to use public transport more and curtail gold purchases and international flight trips for a year, Mr. Rokde said a revitalised, jeweller-integrated GMS can help mobilise idle household gold, cut dependence on imports and boost the formal economy.

According to Avinash Gupta, vice chairman of the council, instead of idle gold remaining locked in households and lockers, GMS can channel it into the formal economy.

Managing director of C. Krishniah Chetty Group C. Vinod Hayagriv said India imported almost 800 tonne of gold annually, and industry estimates suggested almost 200 tonne locked away every year in the form of raw bullion purchased by individuals as passive investments.

# Systematic Investment Plans dip 3% to ₹31,115 cr. in April on global cues

**Ashokamithran T.**
MUMBAI

Investors reduced their Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) contributions by 3% to ₹31,115 crore as geopolitical tensions may have hit their confidence in April.

They had increased contributions by 7% to ₹32,807 crore in March 2026, which itself was a jump from a 3% slip in February 2026. The number of contributing SIP accounts fell 0.7% to 9.64 crore in the reporting month after stagnating at 9.7 crore in the previous two months.

**Dull month:** The number of contributing SIP accounts fell 0.7% to 9.64 crore in the reporting month.

Daily, weekly, fortnightly and monthly SIPs that have not contributed for more than three months and other duration that have not contributed for more than two consecutive months are not considered "contributing." The number of discontinued and tenure completed SIPs reduced to 51.3 lakh, down from 53 lakh in the previous month.

**Outstanding SIPs**

The total outstanding SIPs also stagnated at arouond 10.4 crore for the fourth consecutive month. The number fo new SIPs registered also reduced 4% to 50.8 lakh from 52 lakh in the previous month.

The total inflows into equity mutual funds reduced 5% to ₹38,440.2 crore in April 2026, due to weak global market cues.

### PM's call for WFH: 'tech sector follows hybrid work'

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Nasscom, in response to PM Narendra Modi's work-from-home (WFH) advisory, stated the technology industry in India operated on well-established hybrid work models, with organisations calibrating WFH and work-in-office arrangements based on role and customer needs.

Nasscom said in light of West Asia tensions, firms have adopted prudent energy management measures. across campuses.

# 'In the next 100 years, Bajaj will focus on ecosystems'

**Lalatendu Mishra**
MUMBAI

**The group serves 1 in 3 Indian homes across auto, financial services, electricals and engineering**

The Bajaj Group, one of India's largest conglomerates with market cap of $148 billion, founded during the freedom struggle in 1926 celebrated it's centenary.

Started in then Bombay by Jamnalal Bajaj,a freedom fighter and philanthropist, the group now serves 1 in 3 Indian households across automobiles, financial services, consumer electricals and engineering. Bajaj motorcycles are sold in more than 100 counties and the group has over 100 firms in its fold.

In his address, Rajiv Bajaj, MD, Bajaj Auto said Bajaj Auto besides being one of India's largest two-wheeler firms, was among the top three globally.

"Today's India does not only participate, but it also competes in the global economy," he affirmed.

"The Pulsar brand today stands with global players, not behind them."

Sanjiv Bajaj, CMD, Bajaj Finserv said the next chapter of India's rise will be written by technology and innovation, and most importantly by the youth.

"At Bajaj, we don't see AI only as a technology trend. We see it as a powerful force that will further financial inclusion," he said.

Nirav Bajaj, CEO, Bajaj Integrated Health System said if the first 100 years of Bajaj were about building institutions, the next 100 will be about building ecosystems.

### HSBC slashes FY27 GDP estimate sharply to 6%, expects two RBI rate increases

**Press Trust of India**
MUMBAI

Twin shocks of energy crisis and deficient rainfall will lead to the real GDP growth falling to 6% in FY27 from 7.4% in FY26, a foreign brokerage said. The shocks will also stoke inflation, and may prod the Reserve Bank to hike key lending rates twice in FY27, HSBC said in a report. "Bringing together both the shocks and factoring in some fiscal slippage, we forecast GDP to grow 6% in FY27, lower than our previous year's forecast of 7.4%," the report said.

**Hit to formal sector**

It warned the emerging crises will be a major blow to the formal sector, including rural households and small firms. The RBI expects GDP growth to come in at 6.9% for 2026-27, as per an estimate last month. The conflict in West Asia led to a sharp surge in oil prices with crude continuing to trade above $100/barrel. HSBC economists argued the twin crises and deficient rainfall due to El Nino warrants closer attention to FY27 outlook and added higher temperatures will also dent activity.

**RAICHUR POWER CORPORATION LTD.**
(Yermarus Thermal Power Station)
(Joint venture of KPCL and BHEL)
CIN : U40101KA2009PLC049582

No: KPCL/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT 4125 Dated: 30.04.2026

**BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION**

RPCL invites auction through GoK e-procurement portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** under "WORKS" category for **Sale of Mill Reject Waste Coal (MRWC) for a period of Two years excluding monsoon period. EMD: Rs.13,20,345/-.** Last date & time for receipt of tenders: 16.05.2026 upto 17:30 hrs. Further details can be had from office of the **Executive Engineer (Fuels)**, RPCL/ YTPS, Yermarus - 584 134, Raichur Dist., Karnataka. Mobile: +91 94806 61445.

**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE**
Bangalore - 560012

IISc/CCMD/Tenders/2026-27 Date: 04.05.2026

**Tender Notification- IISc/ Tender-CIV-02/2026-27**

Indian Institute of Science invites bids in two cover system through e-procurement platform **https://eprocure.gov.in** for the work of **"Tank cleaning of Water Storage Reservoirs, Underground sumps, RCC/Masonary/Synthetic Overhead tanks at IISc, Bangalore for 2026-27".** Estimated Cost of Project is **Rs.57,80,560/-.** Last date of receipt of application is **25th May 2026 at 15:30 Hrs.** Any other details can be obtained from the office of the Centre for Campus Management & Development, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore on all working days or e-mail **office.ccmd@iisc.ac.in**

**Sd/-, Registrar**

**TELANGANA STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED**
Regd. Office: "B" Block, # 6-3-655/1/A, Civil Supplies Bhavan, Somajiguda, Hyderabad-500 082, Telangana

M.Stephen Raveendra, I.P.S,
VC & MANAGING DIRECTOR.

**SHORT RE E- TENDER NOTICE**

PDS.II (3) / Coarse Variety (DB) / 2025-26 Dt: 08.05.2026

Telangana State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited (TGSCSCL) invites Short Re **e- tenders for disposal of 0.97 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMTs) of Coarse Variety Rice (FRK - Doddubiyyam)** on **"As Is Where Is" basis,** available at **Buffer Godowns, MLS Points, and Fair Price (FP) Shops** across the State, through **e-auction on the GeM Portal.**

The **Tender Documents** can be downloaded from **12.05.2026** at **11: 00 AM.** The **Pre-Bid Meeting** will be held on **14.05.2026 at 3:00 PM** at 3rd floor Conference Hall **TG Civil Supplies Bhavan, Hyderabad.**

For further details, please visit the websites : **https://tgscscl.telangana.gov.in** and **www.gem.gov.in** Prospective bidders are advised to carefully go through the **tender terms and conditions** before submitting their bids.

R.O. No. : 113-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/2026-27 Dt: 11.05.2026 **For VC & MANAGING DIRECTOR**

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA : e-Procurement Notice**
**OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, PHULBANI MINOR IRRIGATION CIRCLE, PHULBANI.**
email Id :- micirclephulbani@gmail.com
Letter No.482 /WE Dt.06.05.2026./
**e- Procurement Notice - BID ID. No. ACEPMIC-01/2026-27**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Name of the Work | As per Annexure to this bid notice |
| 2. | No. of Works | 03 (Three) Nos. |
| 3. | Estimated Cost | Approximate cost varies from Rs.123.18 Lakh to Rs.235.90 Lakh. |
| 4. | Class of Cotractor | 'B' & 'A' Class |
| 5. | Period of Completion | 10 (ten) calendar month each |
| 6. | Date & Time of Availability of Bid Documents and Receipt of Bid Cost on online Payment mode in Portal | From 13.05.2026 (10.00 Hrs) to 29.05.2026 (17.30 Hrs) in Website (www.tendersodisha.gov.in) |
| 7. | Last date/Time for receipt of Bids in the Portal | 29.05.2026 (Up to 17.30 Hrs.) through online only. |
| 8. | Date of Opening of Technical Bid | 11.00 Hrs. Onwards on 30.05.2026 in the O/o- Additional Chief Engineer, Phulbani M.I. Circle, Phulbani |
| 9. | Name and Adress of OIT | Additional Chief Engineer, Phulbani M.I. Circle, Phulbani Madikunda Square, Near Panchayat Bhawan, PIN: 762001 Dist : Kandhamal. |

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement market place : **http.//tendersodisha.gov.in.**

**Additional Chief Engineer, Phulbani M.I.Circle, Phulbani**

32001/184/2627 OIPR-32001/32521/1/26-27/0001

**Government of Rajasthan**
**National Health Mission, Rajasthan**
**Department of Medical, Health & Family Welfare,**
**Swasthya Bhawan, Jaipur.**
**Tel. No. 0141-2225736, Email ID : ce-mh-raj@gov.in**

No. 717 Date :- 07.05.26

**E-NIT No. 11/2026-27 on EPC MODE**

Online tenders are invited in prescribed format from experienced contractors registered in Public Works Department / State Government / Authorized organizations of Central Government / Central Public Works Department / Department of Posts and Telecommunications / Railways etc. in appropriate category for Building Construction works on EPC Mode in Medical and Health Department, Rajasthan, who are equivalent to the contractors of appropriate category of Rajasthan Government.

| | |
|---|---|
| Total number of Works | 01 |
| Total NIT cost (Rs. in lakhs) | 3925.00 |
| Date of online download & upload | 08 May 2026 to 27 May 2026 Evening 6:00 PM |
| Date of technical Bid Opening | 29 May 2026 11:00 AM |

Details related to the tender can be seen on DIPR website www.dipronline.org ,www.sppp.raj.nic.in http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and departmental website http://rajswasthya.nic.in.
UBN :-

| S.NO. | UBN Number |
|---|---|
| 1 | NRH2627WLOB00176 |

**Chief Engineer**
**Medical and Health**
**Rajasthan, Jaipur**

DIPR/C/8172/2026

**RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY OF KNOWLEDGE TECHNOLOGIES, ANDHRA PRADESH**
Accredited by 'NAAC' with 'B+' Grade
(Established through Act No.18 of 2008 by the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and recognized as per Section 2(f), 12(B) of UGC Act, 1956)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Withdrawal of Faculty Recruitment Notifications-2023**

Pursuant to the resolution of the Governing Council of Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies, Andhra Pradesh, dated **16.04.2026** and the orders issued by the Government vide G.O.RT.No.71, Higher Education (UE) Department, dated **06.05.2026** the permission earlier accorded for filling up of 660 vacancies (regular & backlog) faculty positions in the University is hereby withdrawn. Consequently, the faculty recruitment notifications (No.1/RGUKT/backlog SC/ST/2023, Asst. Professor-No.2/RGUKT/2023, Assoc. Professor-No.3/RGUKT/2023, Professor-No.4/RGUKT/2023, Lecturer - No.5/RGUKT/2023) issued in **31.10.2023** for filling up the said posts stand withdrawn. Candidates who had applied to the notifications-2023 may visit the University website at **www.rgukt.in** for information regarding refund of the application fee. The dates of fresh notifications, and other particulars, will be announced separately.

**Date: 12-05-2026**

DIPR 5075PP/CL, Dt.11.05.2026 **Sd/- VICE CHANCELLOR,RGUKT-AP**

BAGHDAD

## Israeli forces operated from base in Iraq during the Iran war: report

REUTERS

Israeli forces established a makeshift base using an old airstrip in Iraq during the Iran war, officials said on Sunday, confirming a report by *The Wall Street Journal.* Early in the war, which was ignited by U.S.-Israeli attacks on Iran, the troops were detected in the Najaf desert and clashed with Iraqi forces, killing a soldier. AFP

ABUJA

## Military strikes, gang massacres in Nigeria kill around 100 civilians

AP

The Nigerian military and the "bandit" gangs it is fighting killed around 100 civilians on Sunday, sources said. The Nigerian military killed at least 72 people, many of them civilians, in an airstrike in Zamfara. Another air strike killed 13 civilians in Niger. Armed gangs also killed 30 people in a separate attack in Zamfara. AFP

KYIV

## 'No silence' despite U.S.-brokered truce at Ukraine front: Zelenskyy

AP

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Monday that fighting with Russia was ongoing despite a three-day U.S.-brokered ceasefire. He accused Russia of not wanting to end the four-year war. "Today there was no silence at the front, there was fighting. We see that Russia has no intention to end the war," he said. AFP

THE HAGUE

## We 'never considered' becoming 51st U.S. state: Venezuelan leader

AFP

Venezuela has "never" contemplated becoming the 51st U.S. state, as suggested by Donald Trump after the capture of deposed leader Nicolas Maduro, acting President Delcy Rodriguez said on Monday. "It would never have been considered, because if there is one thing we Venezuelans have, it is that we love our independence". AFP

# Trump eyes deal as China gauges U.S. 'decline'

Washington and Beijing announce May 13-15 visit of U.S. President with trade, technology, and Taiwan on the agenda; both sides to explore AI cooperation; critical mineral access and ease of export controls; Wang Yi called on both sides to 'expand cooperation and manage differences'

**Ananth Krishnan**
BEIJING

U.S. President Donald Trump had planned to arrive in Beijing in late March with a sense of swagger, on the back of what he thought would be two spectacular and swift regime changes in Iran and Venezuela.

Instead, as Mr. Trump on Wednesday lands in the Chinese capital, his hosts are debating the limits of American power and what "a declining U.S." may mean for China's ambitions.

The "three Ts" - trade, Taiwan and technology - are likely to garner attention during talks between Mr. Trump and President Xi Jinping set for Thursday and Friday. During the three-day trip, Mr. Trump will visit the Temple of Heaven in Beijing and attend what was described as a lavish state banquet.

For Mr. Trump, progress on trade – including securing Chinese commitments to step up imports, especially in agricultural products, and greater access to critical minerals – is a priority. He will also look to pressure China to use its influence on Iran, U.S. officials said.

U.S. President Donald Trump shakes hands with Chinese President Xi Jinping during their 2025 meet in Busan, South Korea. REUTERS

Mr. Xi will be looking for a reiteration of U.S. commitments on Taiwan and easing of export controls, particularly for advanced semi-conductors that China needs. Both sides are also expected to discuss Artificial Intelligence (AI) as an area of cooperation.

**'Stabilising anchor'**

For both, some stability in ties is a shared objective.

"I'm sure Taiwan will be a topic of conversation. It always is," Secretary of State Marco Rubio said at a White House press briefing last week. "The Chinese understand our position on that topic; we understand theirs. We don't need any destabilising events to occur with regards to Taiwan or anywhere in the Indo-Pacific. And I think that's to the mutual benefit of both the U.S. and the Chinese."

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi similarly emphasised stability in an April 30 phone call with Mr. Rubio, saying meetings between the two leaders had been a "stabilising anchor" for the relationship.

He called on both sides to "expand cooperation and manage differences, and explore the building of a strategic, constructive, and stable China-U.S. relationship." He added that "the Taiwan question bears on China's core interests and is the biggest risk in China-U.S. relations."

Days before the visit, Mr. Wang hosted Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, saying Beijing "supports Iran in safeguarding its national sovereignty and security" and that the "international community shares a common concern about restoring normal and safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz".

Mr. Wang in his remarks did not criticise the U.S. for the war, as he might have ordinarily done, underlining Beijing's keenness to set the stage for a visit that it has placed huge importance on.

For Mr. Xi, hosting Mr. Trump, regardless of the outcome, is in some sense a success in itself, bringing with it valuable optics showcasing China, to the domestic audience, as a global power.

At the same time, for observers in Beijing, the visit comes at a time when the Iran crisis has only deepened their long-held perceptions of U.S. decline - views that acquired wide traction in the decade following the global financial crisis.

"U.S. influence is increasingly contested," as Peking University's Wang Dong put it to *The Hindu*. "And its ability to impose outcomes unilaterally is declining."

**Long-term patience**

A period of "intensified structural competition alongside constrained pragmatism" is how a briefing paper from two scholars, published on the eve of the visit by Tsinghua University's Centre for Strategic and International Studies, described the future of the relationship.

A "competitive U.S. stance" on technology and supply chains was here to stay, it warned, but added that for the U.S., economic and domestic pressures would for any government "restrict comprehensive decoupling". Looking to the future, the paper said China needed to strengthen its relations with other major powers and continue its focus on innovation of key technologies as a response to U.S. policy. "China," it concluded, "needs strategic resolve and long-term patience."

# EU agrees sanctions on West Bank settlers and Hamas leaders

**Associated Press**
BRUSSELS

The European Union reached a unanimous political agreement on Monday to issue new sanctions on Hamas leaders and the Israeli settler movement, top European diplomats said, after years of deadlock and growing popular pressure sparked by the carnage in Gaza.

EU's foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said in a social media post after a meeting in Brussels on Monday of the 27-nation bloc's Foreign Ministers that extremism and violence should carry consequences.

"It was high time we move from deadlock to delivery," she said.

The group failed to endorse even stronger measures pushed by some European governments and did not immediately release details of the new measures, but French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot said the Ministers had decided to sanction Hamas leaders and both leaders and organisations in the Israeli settler movement in the West Bank.

**'Violent colonisation'**

"The EU is sanctioning today the main Israeli organisations guilty of supporting the extremist and violent colonisation of the West Bank, as well as their leaders. These most serious and intolerable acts must cease without delay," he said.

"It is sanctioning the main leaders of Hamas, a terrorist movement that must be disarmed and excluded from any participation in the future of Palestine," Mr. Barrot said.

The sanctions could signal a turning point in the EU's Israel policy.

However, EU diplomats failed to agree on stronger actions to pressure Israel like banning products from Israeli settlements in the West Bank or suspending a key trade agreement.

# Trump declares truce with Iran on 'massive life support'

**Agence France-Presse**
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Monday that the Iran ceasefire is on "life support" and that he is considering restarting naval escorts through the Hormuz Strait waterway as he seeks "complete victory" in the war.

Amid growing pressure at home over the war's impact on the U.S. economy, Mr. Trump warned that Iran's rejection over the weekend of Washington's demands meant the already tenuous ceasefire is now "unbelievably weak."

"I would say it's one of the weakest right now, it's on life support," he said.

"I would say the ceasefire is on massive life support."

Separately, Mr. Trump told Fox News that he was considering renewing a U.S. attempt to escort oil and other commercial shipping through Hormuz, but that he had not yet taken a final decision.

The initiative, dubbed Operation Freedom, was first launched on May 6 but abandoned less than two days later.

***A mother's fight***

Thousands of people, led by mothers of those who have disappeared during decades of drug violence, marched in Mexico City on Sunday, protesting the violence and impunity plaguing the country. AP

# Pakistan summons Afghan diplomat over deadly attack

**Agence France-Presse**
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan summoned the top Afghan diplomat in the country on Monday after concluding that a deadly suicide attack at the weekend was "masterminded by terrorists residing in Afghanistan", the Foreign Ministry said.

A suicide attacker detonated a car bomb at a checkpoint in Pakistan's northwest and militants opened fire on police on Saturday, killing at least 15 people.

The Ministry said it had summoned the Afghan charge d'affaires and "conveyed that a detailed investigation into the incident, indicates that the attack was masterminded by terrorists residing in Afghanistan".

A senior official in Bannu, the area near the Afghan border where the attack took place, said that "the militants used quadcopters along with heavy weaponry".

Afghanistan's Taliban government has denied Pakistan's accusations that Afghan territory was a safe harbour for militants.

# Starmer pledges to stay on despite calls to resign, promises 'bigger' changes

**Sriram Lakshman**
LONDON

Amid calls for his resignation following the Labour Party's poor performance in subnational elections, British Prime Minister and party leader Keir Starmer said he would continue in his post, as he took responsibility for the results and acknowledged that a "bigger response" was needed than was anticipated.

"We need a bigger response than we anticipated in 2024 because these are not ordinary times, and this is a political challenge just as much as it's a policy challenge," he said in a speech in London on Monday.

The Prime Minister suggested a leadership change would cause chaos, adding that the Tories had proved this with frequent leadership changes.

There were five Prime Ministers in the 14 years of Conservative rule, including one, Liz Truss, whose premiership lasted just 49 days.

The U.K. government would speed up legislation to allow the nationalisation of British Steel, which was sold in 1998, Mr. Starmer said. It would also seek closer ties with Europe, he said, adding that his government would put "Britain at the heart of Europe".

More details are expected in Wednesday's 'King's Speech', an annual address to the U.K. Parliament setting out the government's agenda for the next year.

In last week's council (England) and assembly elections (Wales, Scotland), Labour lost votes on the right to the nativist Reform UK party and the left to the Greens and the nationalist party Plaid Cymru in Wales, where, until now, Labour had dominated politics for about a century.

**Poll debacle**

In England, Labour lost some 1,500 councillors in, and the control of, 40 councils. Mr. Starmer has also had historically low popularity ratings for a sitting British Prime Minister. He has overseen discord within his party over the direction of its policies on immigration and welfare spending, with the government pursuing a relatively centrist agenda compared to what Labour has traditionally advocated.

**Fighting on:** Keir Starmer has had historically low popularity ratings for a sitting British Prime Minister. REUTERS

The Prime Minister's judgment had also been questioned over the appointment of Peter Mandelson, an associate of the late Jeffrey Epstein, a convicted paedophile, as Britain's envoy to the U.S.

On Saturday, Catherine West, formerly a Foreign Office Minister and now backbench Labour MP, said she would challenge Mr. Starmer for the leadership if a senior MP did not do so by Monday.

The Prime Minister confirmed that he would fight any challenge to his leadership.

One of those considered a challenger to Mr. Starmer is former Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner who urged Mr. Starmer to shift policies further to the left. Labour needed to change what it was doing in terms of policy, she said, and this may be its "last chance".

According to Ms. Rayner, Labour had not done enough to address the U.K.'s cost of living situation - which ranked as the top concern for voters. People were, therefore, backing nationalists and populists, she said, adding that the Mandelson scandal revealed a "toxic culture of cronyism".

**Prove 'doubters wrong'**

In his speech, Mr. Starmer said neither Reform leader Nigel Farage nor Green Party leader Zac Polanski offered the country "the serious, progressive leadership that these times demand". The Prime Minister said the results "hurt" and acknowledged that some were "frustrated" with him.

"I know I have my doubters, and I know I need to prove them wrong, and I will," he said.

Other possible contenders for the job at No. 10 Downing Street include Health Secretary Wes Streeting and popular Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham.

Mr. Starmer and other allies were criticised for preventing Mr. Burnham from returning as an MP to Parliament in February (a first step towards becoming Prime Minister) by saying Labour would not back him as a candidate in a by-election. In his speech, Mr. Starmer said the decision about Mr. Burnhan's potential return to Westminster was a question for Labour's National Executive Committee.

NO HOLDS BARRED

## Vettori wants Sunrisers' top-order batters to stick to their guns

VIJAY SONEJI

SRH head coach Daniel Vettori encouraged his top-order — Abhishek Sharma, Travis Head and Ishan Kishan — to stick to its aggressive approach against GT. "We want those three guys to go out there and play their game. And then whatever situation we are in after that, then we'll try and pick up the pieces."

HIGH ON CONFIDENCE

## 'The points table is showing what sort of cricket we have played'

VIJAY SONEJI

Gujarat Titans is sitting comfortably in the top half of the IPL 2026 standings. GT assistant coach Vijay Dahiya looks at this as an accurate reflection of his team's performance. "I think the confidence is high. We have played some really good games. The points table is showing what sort of cricket we have played."

KEY PLAYERS

## The core group is quite valuable to us: MI head coach Jayawardene

EMMANUAL YOGINI

The core group is quite valuable to us. I would have loved to have our main guys out there without the injuries. In the nets, the commitment and effort they're putting in is unbelievable. As a unit, we haven't been good enough — Mumbai Indians head coach Mahela Jayawardene.

REPRIMANDED

## RCB coach Flower, David penalised for breaching IPL Code of Conduct

FILE PHOTOS: K. MURALI KUMAR & EMMANUAL YOGINI

RCB coach Andy Flower and batter Tim David have been fined 15% and 30% respectively of their match fee for breaching the IPL Code of Conduct during the clash against MI in Raipur on Sunday. David also got two demerit points for breaching article 2.6, which relates to "using a gesture that is obscene, offensive or insulting."

# Axar and Miller help Capitals pull off a coup against Kings and stay in the hunt

The two stitch together a vital 64-run stand to help the visiting team recover from a poor start; Ashutosh and Madhav apply the finishing touches

IPL-19

**S. Shrivathsan**
DHARAMSHALA

Punjab Kings has gone into freefall. In the IPL 2026 fixture at the HPCA Stadium here on Monday, it was Delhi Capitals' turn to upstage Kings, coming up trumps by three wickets.

Chasing 211 in favourable conditions to condemn PBKS to its fourth successive defeat, DC was poor at the beginning of its pursuit and lost the top three within the fifth over. But Capitals had skipper Axar Patel and David Miller to thank as the left-handed batters haunted their former franchise with match-influencing half-centuries.

Poor fielding and mediocre execution with the ball once again let Kings down.

The host was severely punished for handing a reprieve to Axar, who saw Suryansh Shedge spill a tough chance off Ben Dwarshuis when he was on 25.

The 32-year-old never let the run-rate pressure get to him, taking a special liking for left-arm pacers Dwarshuis and Marco Jansen. He stitched a vital 64-run fifth-wicket alliance with Miller before the South African put the visitors on the cusp of victory.

When Marcus Stoinis halted Axar's progress in the last ball of the 14th over, Capitals still had work to do. Miller, with assistance from Ashutosh Sharma and Madhav Tiwari, did enough to guide his side to victory with an over to spare.

The contest was as good as over after Ashutosh and Madhav combined to smash Stoinis for 19 runs in the 18th over. The groundwork for the win was laid by the DC pacers, who engineered a comeback that proved key in the end.

Auqib Nabi's miserly effort in the PowerPlay, late strikes from Mitchell Starc and Madhav's two-for were worth their weight in gold despite good knocks from PBKS opening batter Priyansh Arya and Shreyas Iyer.

The away team fought back once it found the right lengths and variations which were effective on the track. While Mukesh Kumar drew first blood by dismissing Prabhsimran Singh and breaking a 78-run alliance, Madhav sent back Priyansh, who found Sahil Parakh at sweeper-cover.

The persistent effort of the fast bowlers, who sent down all the overs, helped restrict PBKS to 210 for five even after the home side had blazed to 51 without loss in three overs. Those small contributions had a big impact.

**Show-stealers:** Madhav, Miller, Ashutosh and Axar rose to the occasion as Capitals upstaged Kings in a crucial contest. R.V. MOORTHY

**SCOREBOARD**

**PUNJAB KINGS**
Priyansh Arya c Sahil b Madhav 56 *(33b, 2x4, 6x6)*, Prabhsimran Singh c Nabi b Mukesh 18 *(15b, 3x4)*, Shreyas Iyer (not out) 59 *(36b, 5x4, 3x6)*, Cooper Connolly c Miller b Madhav 38 *(27b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Marcus Stoinis c Madhav b Starc 1 *(2b)*, Shashank Singh c Axar b Starc 0 *(1b)*, Suryansh Shedge (not out) 21 *(8b, 2x4, 2x6)*; Extras (b-4, nb-2, w-11): 17; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 210.

**FALL OF WICKETS**
1-78 (Prabhsimran, 6.5 overs), 2-97 (Priyansh, 8.6), 3-180 (Connolly, 17.4), 4-187 (Stoinis, 18.1), 5-187 (Shashank, 18.2).

**CAPITALS BOWLING**
Starc 4-0-57-2, Nabi 4-0-32-0, Ngidi 4-0-46-0, Mukesh 4-0-31-1, Madhav 4-0-40-2.

**DELHI CAPITALS**
K.L. Rahul c Jansen b Arshdeep 9 *(8b, 2x4)*, Abishek Porel b Yash Thakur 5 *(6b, 1x4)*, Sahil Parakh c Chahal b Arshdeep 13 *(6b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Tristan Stubbs run out 12 *(17b, 1x4)*, Axar Patel c Dwarshuis b Stoinis 56 *(30b, 8x4, 2x6)*, David Miller c Prabhsimran b Dwarshuis 51 *(28b, 3x4, 4x6)*, Ashutosh Sharma **(Impact Player for Mukesh)** c sub (Praveen) b Yash Thakur 24 *(10b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Madhav Tiwari (not out) 18 *(8b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Auqib Nabi (not out) 10 *(2b, 1x4, 1x6)*; Extras (nb-1, w-17): 18; Total (for seven wkts. in 19 overs): 216.

**FALL OF WICKETS**
1-10 (Porel, 1.5), 2-14 (Rahul, 2.3), 3-33 (Sahil, 4.3), 4-74 (Stubbs, 8.2), 5-138 (Axar, 13.6), 6-170 (Miller, 16.3), 7-205 (Ashutosh, 18.5).

**KINGS BOWLING**
Arshdeep 4-0-21-2, Yash Thakur **(Impact Player for Shashank)** 4-0-55-2, Jansen 4-0-45-0, Dwarshuis 4-0-51-1, Stoinis 3-0-44-1.

**Toss:** DC; **PoM:** Madhav.
*Capitals won by three wickets with one over to spare.*

Next assignment

**PBKS:** May 14 vs. MI
Dharamshala, 7.30 p.m.

**DC:** May 17 vs. RR
Delhi, 7.30 p.m.

**Key match-up:** Holder will hope to keep Klaasen quiet. VIJAY SONEJI

# GT's bowling steel faces SRH's batting might

**Pranay Rajiv**
AHMEDABAD

It is almost reassuring to watch teams operate with ideological clarity.

Such sides rarely stray from the predetermined routes they feel best suited for producing favourable outcomes. Low in surprises, high in efficiency.

Over the last four years, Gujarat Titans and Sunrisers Hyderabad have been two teams that have stuck by their own methods.

A template game for Titans would see their top-three – Shubman Gill, Sai Sudharsan and Jos Buttler – bat steadily, but deep, to provide an assured platform for their well-rounded bowling attack to work with. In contrast, SRH relies on a hyper-aggressive batting push across the order to compensate for its relative shortcomings in the bowling front.

Interestingly, in their direct encounters, Titans' philosophy has reigned supreme over SRH's, resulting in five wins out of six games.

SRH will look to buck this trend as the two teams face off in an IPL 2026 clash at the Narendra Modi Stadium here on Tuesday.

In all likelihood, the decisive battle will be the one between Titans' bowling steel and SRH's batting might.

This season, Titans have the best bowling average (23.86) and the second-best economy (9.03).

They also have the most bowlers with at least 10 wickets – Kagiso Rabada, Rashid Khan, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna and Jason Holder.

On Tuesday, Titans' bowling attack will challenge a rapid-moving SRH batting unit, which boasts the second-best run-rate this season (10.78).

With Orange Cap holder Heinrich Klaasen acting as the glue, SRH's batting spine has thrived, particularly the all-leftie top-three – Abhishek Sharma, Travis Head and Ishan Kishan.

Despite diverging approaches, both GT and SRH enter the contest with 14 points each from 11 games.

Today's match

GUJARAT TITANS vs. SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

**Ahmedabad**, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 6
GT 5 | SRH 1

PREVIOUS MEETING
GT won by **38 runs**, 2025

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

**What's at stake**
On Tuesday, one of these two will climb to the top of the table.

Also at stake would be the primacy of their respective philosophies.

# The journey of the six — from a bonus to primary currency

**Natalia Hannah Rice**

In T20 cricket, the six is the shot that changes a match. It shifts momentum, lifts a crowd and alters the terms of a contest in a single stroke. In IPL 2026, the maximum has become the clearest measure of a team's batting ambition, and more often than not, a reliable indicator of which side walks away with the points. Through 55 matches, teams have hit 1,045 sixes, and are well on course to challenge the all-time record of 1,294 set in 2025.

Power-hitting is no longer confined to the death overs. It's from ball one, woven into every phase of an innings, and the teams leading the points table are, without exception, among those clearing the boundary most frequently.

Sunrisers Hyderabad leads the six-hitting charts with 135 maximums, reflecting its standing as the most attack-minded batting unit in the competition. Punjab Kings follows with 134; Royal Challengers Bengaluru is third with 119, and Rajasthan Royals sits fourth with 109.

Within each side, the leading contributors tell their own story. Abhishek Sharma heads SRH's tally with 36; Ryan Rickelton leads Mumbai's count on 33; Priyansh Arya has 32 maximums, the most by a PBKS batter; Rajat Patidar anchors RCB's charge with 30. Topping the individual standings is Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (RR) with 40 sixes. His 103-run knock against SRH, which included 12 maximums, the most by an Indian in a single IPL innings, captured what this season has come to represent. At 15, he is rewriting records almost every time he bats.

In this IPL season, the six is no longer a bonus. It is batting's primary currency.

Points table

| | M | W | L | NR | PTS | NRR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Royal Challengers | 11 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 14 | 1.103 |
| Sunrisers Hyderabad | 11 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 14 | 0.737 |
| Gujarat Titans | 11 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 14 | 0.228 |
| Punjab Kings | 11 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 13 | 0.428 |
| Chennai Super Kings | 11 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 12 | 0.185 |
| Rajasthan Royals | 11 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 12 | 0.082 |
| Delhi Capitals | 12 | 5 | 7 | 0 | 10 | -0.993 |
| Kolkata Knight Riders | 10 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 9 | -0.169 |
| Mumbai Indians (E) | 11 | 3 | 8 | 0 | 6 | -0.585 |
| Lucknow Super Giants (E) | 11 | 3 | 8 | 0 | 6 | -0.907 |

E: Eliminated

Sooryavanshi.
SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

# Rode on 'sheer willpower' to take the team home: Krunal

**Anish Pathiyil**
RAIPUR

The final few balls he faced during Royal Challengers Bengaluru's clash against Mumbai Indians were quite excruciating for Krunal Pandya.

Wickets fell like nine pins around him, but the target seemed within reach. With every shot he played, the cramps seemed to get even worse.

He decided to fight on rather than surrender to the pain.

The two sixes he hit in the 18th over, falling to the ground after every attempt, eventually helped the defending champion over the line in a tense chase.

"The cramps were quite painful. It started with the calf, then the hamstring and the glutes. Both my legs were cramping. I was very clear. I will not go out. I will fight through and make sure I can do whatever I can for the team," the all-rounder would tell reporters after his match-winning knock.

When asked what it took to play through the pain, Krunal said: "Sheer willpower. Over time, I have maintained an attitude of not giving up, and I have always cherished these tough situations. I have the simple mindset that whenever I go out to bat, I will try to approach the situation in the way the team wants."

It has been just under five years since Krunal last donned the India colours. After sliding down the pecking order after 2021, he has written himself back into contention with his performances for RCB.

The all-rounder says he continues to harbour aspirations to play for the country in the shortest format.

"Since I was six or seven years old, I have dreamt of playing for India. There is still no change in that. My goal is to play for the country.

"A World Cup is coming next year, so fingers crossed. I want to keep doing well and get that opportunity," the 35-year-old said.

## INBRIEF

### Bangladesh extends lead over Pakistan on a rain-hit day

Skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto and Mominul Haque hit half-centuries as Bangladesh reached 152 for three on a rain-hit day four of the first Test against Pakistan in Dhaka on Monday. Bangladesh's lead grew to 179, after bad light forced an early end to play with Shanto unbeaten on 58 and Mushfiqur Rahim on 16.

**The scores:** Bangladesh 413 in 117.1 overs & 152/3 in 50.3 overs (Mominul 56, Shanto 58 batting) vs. Pakistan 386 in 100.3 overs.

### ICC retains its umpires and match referees' panels

The International Cricket Council (ICC), after its annual review process, retained the elite panels of umpires and match referees for the 2026-27 season. The elite match referees panel comprises Jeff Crowe (NZ), Ranjan Madugalle (SL), Andrew Pycroft (Zim), Richie Richardson (WI) and Javagal Srinath (Ind). The elite umpires panel includes Kumar Dharmasena (SL), Christopher Gaffaney (NZ), Adrian Holdstock (RSA), Richard Illingworth (Eng), Richard Kettleborough (Eng), Nitin Menon (Ind), Allahuddien Paleker (RSA), Ahsan Raza (Pak), Paul Reiffel (Aus), Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid (Ban), Rodney Tucker (Aus) and Alex Wharf (Eng).

### Komal wins 48kg bronze in Asian weightlifting

Komal Kohar opened India's medal count, winning bronze in the women's 48kg at the Asian weightlifting championships in Gandhinagar on Monday. Competing in place of Mirabai Chanu, the 23-year-old rose to the occasion with a composed performance, finishing with a combined lift of 177kg (78kg in snatch and 99kg in clean and jerk). Her effort in clean and jerk also earned her a bronze medal in the discipline.

**The result: Women's 48kg:** 1. Huang Yi Chen (Tpe) 193kg (81 snatch & 112kg clean and jerk), 2, Fang Wan-Ling (Tpe) 192 (84 & 108). 3. Komal Kochar 177 (78 & 99).

### Young Tigresses lose to China, World Cup dream ends

India's dreams of qualifying for the FIFA under-17 World Cup ended with a 0-3 loss to China in the AFC under-17 Women's Asian Cup 2026 quarterfinals in Suzhou (China) on Monday. This was the first time that India had qualified for the last-eight stage of this tournament. A win would have booked its berth in the FIFA u-17 Women's World Cup, set to be held later this year in Morocco. Huang Qinyi (38), Liu Yuxi (45+4), and Li Qixian (90) scored for the host to enter the semifinals, where it will meet North Korea, which thrashed Thailand 6-0 in another last-eight clash. Earlier in the tournament, India had beaten Lebanon 4-0 in its last group-stage match – the side's first win in the competition in 21 years.

### Chotrani loses to champion Asal in World squash

India's Veer Chotrani went down to Egyptian World No. 1 and defending champion Mostafa Asal in the second round of the World Squash Championships in Giza, Egypt. World No. 45 Chotrani lost 5-11, 2-11, 4-11, which ended the Indian challenge at the Worlds following first-round losses to compatriots Abhay Singh, Ramit Tandon and Velavan Senthilkumar.

### Eight Indian girls in finals of Asian U-17 boxing c'ships

India's U-17 girls continued their strong run at the Asian Championships with eight boxers advancing to the finals in Tashkent on Monday. Rakhi (46kg), Khushi Chand (48kg), Navya (57kg), Diya (63kg), Himanshi (70kg), Jyoti (75kg), Vanshika (80kg) and Gurseerat Kaur (80+kg) moved to the finals. However, Mamta Murlidhar (52kg), Manjunath Lamani (54kg), Ishika (60kg), and Harnoor Kaur (66kg) lost their respective semifinals and will get bronze medals.

# Discipline keeps me going: Bhuvneshwar

The RCB medium-pacer, who has 21 wickets this season, says motivation is an overrated word; adds that his skills haven't changed since his debut

IPL-19

**Anish Pathiyil**
RAIPUR

**Evergreen:** Bhuvneshwar has maintained an economy rate of 7.46 this season. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

It has been 16 years since Bhuvneshwar Kumar has been running in to deliver the ball with that aesthetically pleasing action in the IPL. Yes, the wrinkles are more marked now, and the body is demanding more delicate attention. But the effectiveness has barely diminished.

The 36-year-old gave another glimpse of his otherworldly accuracy and ability to extract the maximum out of a surface with a four-wicket haul in Royal Challengers Bengaluru's riveting win over Mumbai Indians here on Sunday.

While most athletes credit a dream or an incentive as their driving force, Bhuvneshwar is slightly different.

"Motivation is a very overrated word for me. What keeps me going is discipline. It maybe cliche, but it is wanting to go when you are tired; that consistency and hunger that translates to the field as well. I don't think my skills have changed since I debuted. The mental aspect – accepting that the batters play differently from 10 years ago and are going to come hard at you – is helping me stay relevant," he elucidated during a conversation with select media on Monday.

The Uttar Pradesh quick has already picked up 21 wickets for the defending champion this edition, his highest season tally since 2017.

But what really stands out is the economy rate he is operating at. Despite records for the loftiest totals and the highest chases tumbling, Bhuvneshwar has maintained an economy of just 7.46.

"When you take wickets regularly, you force the batter to take an extra couple of balls at the crease. I am not doing anything different.

"But the wickets column gives you confidence that you will execute better. I am still trying to keep things simple. The ball is coming out of the hand nicely. It's swinging. It's getting edges. Everything is falling into place," he added.

# Urvil — where intent meets opportunity

**Tarun Shastry**
CHENNAI

**In full flow:** Urvil put the LSG attack to the sword. R. RAGU

The first sign came a fortnight ago.

On the eve of an IPL fixture, Chennai Super Kings head coach Stephen Fleming casually mentioned at a press conference that Urvil Patel was "itching" to play. Around the same time, every clip on the franchise's social media pages seemed to carry the same soundtrack – the crunch of Urvil's bat echoing across the nets.

Opportunity, however, arrived through misfortune. When Ayush Mhatre was ruled out for the remainder of the season with injury, the door finally opened for Urvil.

His start did not scream inevitability. Against Gujarat Titans, he managed only four. Against Mumbai Indians, there were flashes of menace in a 12-ball 24 struck at 200.

Facing Delhi Capitals, he again showed attacking instinct, racing to 17 off nine deliveries at a strike rate nudging 190 before falling.

But Sunday's innings felt different. It carried weight.

For one, CSK's campaign had reached the stage where every match resembles a knockout fixture. More importantly, this has long been a side burdened by its record in chases. Since 2018, Chennai has repeatedly struggled while pursuing targets in excess of 180, losing 14 such matches.

On Sunday afternoon, thanks largely to Urvil's uninhibited strokeplay, eight maximums and record-equalling 13-ball 50, the five-time champion finally crossed the line.

What stood out was not merely the power of the hitting, but the clarity behind it. Urvil does not swing blindly; there is method to his aggression. His bat flow is clean, his base remains stable, and once he identifies a scoring area, he commits fully. Bowlers are rarely allowed the chance to settle.

Domestic cricket had already offered enough evidence. Representing Gujarat in the 2024-25 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, Urvil smashed a 28-ball hundred against Tripura – the fastest by an Indian in T20 cricket. He followed it up in the 2025-26 edition with another century, this one arriving in 31 deliveries against Services.

What makes Urvil compelling is his intent. And perhaps that is precisely what CSK has lacked this season.

For years, Chennai's batting identity was built on control and experience. Urvil represents the other end of the spectrum – instinctive, explosive and unapologetically aggressive.

# Explosive on paper, erratic on the pitch: Moody's take on LSG batters

**C. Shyam Sundar**
CHENNAI

A team with an imposing batting line-up comprising Mitchell Marsh, Aiden Markram, Nicholas Pooran and Rishabh Pant can send shivers down the spine of any bowling unit. Yet, Lucknow Super Giants endured a forgettable IPL 2026 campaign, getting eliminated after a loss to Chennai Super Kings in its 11th game.

As has been the case throughout the tournament, LSG's batting fortunes nosedived after a blistering start provided by Josh Inglis, another power-hitter in the team's armoury in Sunday's game against CSK.

Tom Moody, LSG's director of cricket, admitted that inconsistent batting performances, particularly in the middle-order, hurt the team this season, saying the side repeatedly failed to build on strong starts and finish innings strongly.

"If we look at our season from a broad lens, I think our batting has let us down, particularly our middle-order. It hasn't shown the consistency that's required to have success consistently... our batting hasn't fired, so we're exposed down the backend of the innings."

He also spoke about the impact of injuries and unavailable players on the team balance, especially the absence of Sri Lankan spinner Wanindu Hasaranga.

"Hasaranga was a significant miss for us because he was a really important key to the puzzle of how we were trying to stack up as a side. He offered that point of difference with a mystery spinner and also depth at No. 8".

### Impact Index

1 Urvil (42 runs) has the highest by a batter after the first 10 balls of an IPL innings

1 He is also the first to smash six sixes off the first eight balls in the league

2 While chasing 180 or more, Super Kings emerged victorious for only for the second time since 2018 (in 16 matches)

2 RCB registered its second win off the final delivery against MI, the previous one being the two-wicket win in Chennai in 2021 (chasing 160)

2 Kohli has been dismissed for consecutive ducks for only the second time in the league after 2022 (vs. LSG & SRH)

6 Bhuvneshwar equalled Harshal's record (set in 2021) for most three-wicket hauls in a season

8 Urvil's tally of sixes while facing fewer than 25 deliveries is a new record

131 CSK's highest score at the 10-over mark in the IPL, surpassing the 128 against MI in 2015

282.6 Urvil has the second-highest strike rate in an innings for CSK (min. 20 balls) after Suresh Raina (25-ball 87 at a strike-rate of 348 vs. PBKS, 2014)

COMPILED BY ANIRUDH VELAMURI

> Hasaranga was a significant miss for us because he was a really important key to the puzzle of how we were trying to stack up as a side

# Three Indians come a cropper on opening day

**Pulling through:** Palan beat back the challenge from Kesharwani. K. MURALI KUMAR

TENNIS

**Ashwin Achal**
BENGALURU

It was a bad day at the office for Indians as three players lost in the opening round of the Karnataka Open ATP Challenger at the S.M. Krishna Tennis Stadium here on Monday.

On centre court, wild card entrant Maan Kesharwani fell to Dominik Palan (World No. 500) 6-7(10), 4-6. The tall Kesharwani was on song when he landed his big serves, but with a poor 54% first serve percentage, he failed to cash in on his best weapon.

Palan gained massive bounce on his kick serves, forcing Kesharwani to make awkward returns from well above the shoulder. This allowed the Czech Republic player to defeat the Indian without facing a single break point.

On the adjacent court one, the experienced Sidharth Rawat (World No. 527) showed grit and fight in his encounter against Maximus Jones (World No. 442), but went down 4-6, 6-7(3).

Dev Javia, another wild card, lost to Serbia's Ognjen Milic 1-6, 6-7(5).

**The results (round-of-32):** Dominik Palan (Cze) bt Maan Kesharwani (Ind) 7-6(10), 6-4; Maximus Jones (Tha) bt Sidharth Rawat (Ind) 6-4, 7-6(3); Ognjen Milic (Srb) bt Dev Javia (Ind) 6-1, 7-6(5); Yuta Kawahashi (Jpn) bt Alex Hernandez (Mex) 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.

## BENGALURU ROUND-UP

**Dhinidhi betters her own 200m freestyle mark**

Dolphin Aquatics' Dhinidhi Desinghu (2:04.20) bettered her own women's 200m freestyle record in the NRJ State senior swimming championship 2026 at the Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre (BAC) on Monday. Dhinidhi bettered her State mark of 2:06.22 set last year.

BAC's S. Dharshan created a new men's 400m freestyle record in 3:59.07. Dharshan erased the previous record held by Aneesh Gowda (3:59.56). Dharshan's twin S. Dhakshan (3:59.26), who took second place, also went under Aneesh's mark.

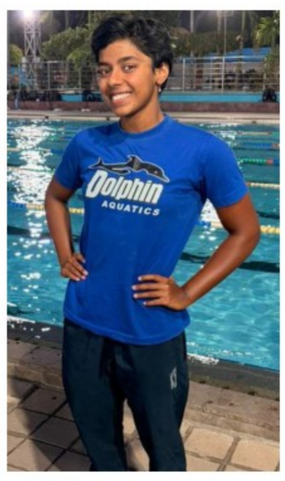
Dharshan

**Rohith, Bhavish shine star for Swastic Union (1)**

Rohith Reddy (123) and K. Bhavish (five for 13) helped Swastic Union (1) defeat Caravan Cricketers in the KSCA under-16 inter-club tournament here.

**The scores:** Swastic Union (1) 297 in 50 overs (Rohith Reddy 123, Niyanta Santosh 46, Vivaan Bhusad 4/37) bt Caravan Cricketers 108 in 31.1 overs (K. Bhavish 5/13).

Yankees CC 275/8 in 50 overs (Yatin Athale 95, N.S. Aradhya 51) lost to National Cricketers 276/8 in 49.3 overs (Amogh Athreyasa



Dhinidhi.

52, S. Maanvik 54, Gaurav Raj 105).

Jayanagar Cricketers 153 in 28.2 overs (Hasnain Ali 56, Ruhaan Shaikh 4/19) lost to Chintamani SA 154/8 in 22.2 overs.

City Gymkhana 261/7 in 50 overs (Arnav Manchale 88, Vedant Shaurya 72 n.o.) bt YMCA CC (3) 164 in 34.3 overs (Karthick Veeran 52).

Jayanagar United Cricketers 312/7 in 50 overs (Ayan Mukherjee 58, Sudarshan Thapa 42, Yadalla Kushaal 55, Gautam Rayabagi 43) bt Jupiter CA 71 in 27.1 overs (Soumith Kongara 5/13).

Vivekanagar Cricketers 212 in 44.3 overs (Bhavith Reddy 63, C.V.D. Karthik 5/30) bt Malleswaram Gymkhana 190 in 42.5 overs (Koman Prasad 40, K. Aryamohan 56, T.P. Jagan 6/32).

**Facile win for R.T. Nagar**

R.T. Nagar defeated Bangalore North 4-1 in the KSFA 'C' division football league on Monday.

**The results:** R.T. Nagar bt Bangalore North FC 4-1; Samanth Sports Academy bt GRK Youths 5-0; Balaharaka FC drew with Raman Sports Academy 0-0; Stadium FC drew with Hawks United Sports -2; Alchemy Intl. FA bt Samba FC 6-0; Chitradurga FC bt Gopalan FC 2-1.

LIVE TELECAST

**Bangladesh vs Pakistan:** 1st Test, day 5, FanCode, 9.30 a.m.

**IPL**: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.

**ISL:** Sony Sports Ten 2 & FanCode, 7.30 p.m.

# East Bengal fails to break deadlock against Punjab

ISL

**Amitabha Das Sharma**
KOLKATA

East Bengal FC had a frustrating Monday evening at home as it was held to a goalless draw by Punjab FC in an ISL-12 encounter at the Salt Lake Stadium.

Despite creating several opportunities, neither side managed to find the finishing touch in an entertaining contest. The result was a big disappointment for East Bengal before its meeting against archrival Mohun Bagan Super Giant in the Kolkata derby.

East Bengal lacked the penetration to break through a disciplined Punjab defence. The best chance of the opening half came around the half-hour mark when Bipin Singh received a precise pass from Miguel Ferreira. However, Punjab custodian Arshdeep Singh warded off the threat. Punjab looked more threatening and came close twice. One of Spanish forward Dani Ramirez's attempts struck the upright while the other missed the target.

THE HINDU GROUP

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## PERSONAL

### CHANGE OF NAME

**I, N** Vasantha Kokila wife of Army Service No. JC 092686K Rank : SUB (Retired), Name: Radhakrishnan resident of No.13, 4th Cross, Cauvery Layout, Near SK Medical, Shettihalli, Jalahalli West, Bengaluru – 560 015, have changed my name from N Vasantha Kokila to R Vasantha Kokila and amended my date of birth from 14-04-1951 to 07-07-1947 vide affidavit dated 09-05-2026 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed.

## BUSINESS OFFERS

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## TENDERS

**TRACO CABLE COMPANY LIMITED**
(A Kerala Government Company)
Kochi, Kerala - State.
Tel: **9495256896/9496292907**
head.purchase@tracocable.com

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**

EOI is invited through E-Tender System from the experts for shifting of cable manufacturing machines from Irimpanam to Thiruvalla unit and to be installed there . The details can be downloaded from **www.tracocable.com** **www.etenders.kerala.gov** The last date of receipt of EOI is on or before **20.05.2026**.
Managing Director, Traco Cable Company Limited

## OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

### DEATH

**OBITUARY**

*Our beloved mother,*
**SEETHALAKSHMY**
breathed her last on 11th May 2026 in Chennai.
Bereaved by her children
Balraj, Sabesh, Jayashri, Chitra, Janaki , Ramnath
Grandchildren:
Varun, Dhwani and Amrit
Condolence may be sent to
lifelivedwell97@gmail.com.

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GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT
**TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT M.G.R. FILM AND TELEVISION INSTITUTE**
(Affiliated to The Tamil Nadu Dr.J Jayalalithaa Music and Fine Arts University)
C.I.T. CAMPUS, THARAMANI, CHENNAI –600113.

**ADMISSION NOTIFICATION- 2026-2027 FOR BACHELOR OF VISUAL ARTS DEGREE COURSE**

Applications are invited for the First Year Admission to the following 4 years duration Degree Courses through website.

**1 Bachelor of Visual Arts (Cinematography)**
**2 Bachelor of Visual Arts (Digital Intermediate)**
**3 Bachelor of Visual Arts (Audiography)**
**4 Bachelor of Visual Arts (Direction and Screenplay Writing)**
**5 Bachelor of Visual Arts (Film Editing)**
**6 Bachelor of Visual Arts (Animation and Visual Effects)**

(Subject to meeting specific eligibility criteria, a student may apply separately for a maximum of two degree courses)

For Sl.No.1 and 2 Degree Courses - Minimum Qualification is a Pass in Higher Secondary (10+2) Examination with Physics and Chemistry / Vocational Courses with Photography as a special subject / Any equivalent qualification with other specification stated above / Diploma in Electrical and Electronics Engineering / Diploma in Electronics and Communication Engineering and for Sl.No. 3 Degree Course - Minimum Qualification is a Pass in Higher Secondary (10+2) examination with Physics and Chemistry / Vocational Courses with Radio & TV or domestic electronic equipment as a special subject / Any equivalent qualification with other specification stated above / Diploma in Electrical and Electronics Engineering / Diploma in Electronics and Communication Engineering and for Sl. No. 4 to 6 Degree Courses - Minimum Qualification is a Pass in Higher Secondary (10+2) examination in any group. For other details, please refer to Prospectus.

Application Form must be filled and submitted by attaching all the necessary documents only through online in the Official website www.filminstitute.tn.gov.in The application fee must be paid only through online as mentioned below.

For SC/ST Candidates - Rs. 60/- (Community Certificate must be attached) (Eg.TN-520200718490) (Applicable to the candidates from Tamil Nadu)
For Other Candidates - Rs.200/-
Online application will be open from : **12-05-2026 at 10.00 A.M**
Last date for submission of Online application : **02-06-2026 before 05.00 P.M.**

PRINCIPAL (FAC),|
TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT M.G.R. FILM AND TELEVISION INSTITUTE, C.I.T.CAMPUS, THARAMANI, CHENNAI-600 113.
DIPR/389/DISPLAY/2026

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**KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD**
( A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
# 2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar,
Bengaluru – 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383. Website: www.kiadb.in

No.: IADB/ENGG/EIA/ENTD-EC-01/0175/2026-27 Date:11.05.2026

**SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER TO PROVIDE CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR OBTAINING ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE (EC)**
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB is inviting tender under two cover system for providing consultancy service from Environmental Consultant of NABET under 7(C) category with NABET & NABL Accredited Consultant / NABET Consultancy MoU with NABL Accredited Consultant are eligible to participate in this tender.

**Name of the Work:** "Consultancy Services for the work of to carryout EIA, SIS Studies etc., to obtain Environmental Clearance (EC) from State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA)/ Ministry of Environment, Forest and climate Change (MoEF&CC) and Consent for Establishment (CFE) from Karnataka State Pollution Control Board(KSPCB) and submission of Half Yearly compliance report for all the conditions of EC & CFE for 3 years for the Tidagundi Industrial Area, Vijayapura Taluk & District".

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **26.05.2026 upto 04:00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

**Sd/-**
**Chief Engineer - 2**
DIPR/CP/JA/598/2026-27

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**KRISHNA UNIVERSITY**
RUDRAVARAM, MACHILIPATNAM-521004, KRISHNA DISTRICT, A.P.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**
**WITHDRAWAL OF 2023 FACULTY RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATIONS**

Pursuant to the resolution of the Executive Council of Krishna University and the orders issued by the Government vide G.O. RT. No. 62, Higher Education (UE) Department, dated 06-05-2026, the permission earlier accorded for filling up 86 vacant faculty positions in the Krishna University is hereby withdrawn. Consequently, the faculty recruitment notifications issued vide **Notification No.1/KRU/Backlog-SC&ST/2023, dated: 30-10-2023; Notification No.2/KRU/Assistant Professor & Academic Non-Vacation Positions/BC Backlog & Regular/2023, dated: 30-10-2023; Notification No.3/KRU/Associate Professor/BC Backlog & Regular/2023, dated: 30-10-2023; and Notification No.4/KRU/Professor/2023, dated:30-10-2023**, for filling up the said posts stand withdrawn. Candidates who had applied to the 2023 notifications may visit the university website at **www.kru.ac.in** for information regarding the refund of the application fee. The dates of fresh notifications and other particulars will be announced separately.

**SD/- REGISTRAR, KRISHNA UNIVERSITY**

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**KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD**
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road,
Bengaluru - 560009.

**Tender Notification**
**(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)**

Karnataka Housing Board invite tender from the eligible Pre qualified contractors & willing to Pre qualify in Karnataka Housing Board through Karnataka public procurement portal for the below mentioned work.

Construction of Minority Welfare Department Morarji Desai Residential School (Phase-1) at Shinganahalli (Kummanayakanakoppa) Village, Dharwada Taluk, Dharwada District. **Work Indent No. :** KHB/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT 756 & IFT No.23/2026-27 Date: 08.05.2026. **Amount put to tender :** Rs. 11,57,73,257/-.

**Last date for submission of bid is on 22.05.2026 upto 4.00 PM.**

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511, Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

**Sd/- Executive Engineer,**
**Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru**
DIPR/CP/589/AKAR/2026-27

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**Government of Karnataka**
**Office of the District Officer,**
**Minority Welfare Department, Ballari**
e-mail:domballari22@gmail.com Ph:08392-200125/244

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ :ಅಕಶುಬ/ಆ.ಸಾ.ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿ.ಆರ್–15/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:07.05.2026

**Tender**

**Sub:** 2026-27Purchasing of Food Materials for Post /Pre Matric Hostels and Minority Morarji Desai Residential Schools/ Colleges Working Under Minority Welfare Department Ballari Dist.

**Ref :**Govt. Order No: MWD 265 MDS 2023 Bangalore Date:18/07/ 2023.

2026-27 Purchasing of Food Materials for Post/Pre Matric Hostels and Minority Morarji Desai Residential Schools/Colleges Working under Minority Welfare Department Ballari Dist. through e-procurement Details as below

1.Tender Announcement date: **Dated:07-05-2026.** 2.Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 518.88/- Lakshs.** 3.Tender Reference No. and date: **MWD/2025-26/IND0121 ದಿನಾಂಕ:07-05-2026.** 4.Tender Application Opening Date: **Dated:07-05-2026**. 5.Last date & Time for submission of Tender: **Dated:06-06-2026 Time : 5:00 PM.** 6.Date & Time of opening of Technical bid: **Date : 09-06-2026 Time : 5:00 PM.** 7.Date & Time of opening of Financial Bid ( Only eligible tenderer in technical bid): **Date 12-06-2026 Time : 10:10 AM.** 8.Venue of Address for communication: **DISTRICT MINORITY WELFARE OFFICER MOULAN AZAD BHAVANA, NEAR JOLADARASI DODDANAGOUDA RANGA MANDIRA, BELLARY Phone : 08392-200125 Mobil No: 88614 20334 EMAIL:domballari22@gmail.com**

Search More Details on Website: https://Kppp.karnataka.gov.in

**Sd/- District Officer**
**Minority Welfare Department Ballari.**
**DIPR/Ballari/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/127**

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**Government of Karnataka**
**KARNATAKA STATE HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE SOCIETY**
**NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION**
Arogya Soudha, 1st Floor, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560023.
Phone No: 080-23295103 E-mail id: pdrch-hfws@karnataka.gov.in

Notification No.NHM/DD/IMM/01/2026-27 (E-2133052) Date:11/05/2026

**TENDER THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT**
**"For Supply of Indelible Polio Marker Pens for Pulse Polio Program"**

**Tender Ref. No:NHM/2026-27/IND0041/Call-2 Date:11/05/2026**

National Health Mission (NHM) invites tender for Manufacturers/ Authorized Dealer to participate with necessary documents for **Supply of Indelible Polio Marker Pens for Pulse Polio Program under National Health Mission.**

The detailed notification regarding eligibility and other details can be obtained by logging on to www:kppp.karnataka.gov.in. The tender document can be downloaded through "e-procurement portal" from 11/05/2026 onwards and last date for receipt of tender is on or before 18/05/2026 at 05.30 pm. Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during the office hours from 11:00 am to 05:30 pm.

**Sd/-**
**Project Director (RCH)**
DIPR/CP/593/CCL/2026-27

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**DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT**
Office of the Director, Dept. of Women and Child Development
PWD Building, Anandrao Circle, Bengaluru - 56009

No: WCD/ICDS/MEDK/1/2025 Date: 11.05.2026

**TENDER SCHEDULE (Medicine Kit Purchase)**

Department of Women and Child Development hereby invites tenders from officially registered and eligible suppliers for the supply of **Medicine Kit to 69922 ANGANAWADI Centres** in the State of Karnataka for the year 2025-26. Interested bidders shall submit the bids through Government of Karnataka's Karnataka Public Procurement portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Tender Reference No. | **No: DWCD/2025-26/IND0105/Call-2** |
| 2 | Date of Commencement of Download of Tender Document from e-Procurement website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in | From:- 12-05-2026 |
| 3 | Date, Time & Venue of Pre- bid Meeting | 14-05-2026 Director office, Department of Women and Child Development, Anand Rao Circle, Bengaluru-560009 Karnataka. |
| 4 | Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries in Karnataka Public Procurement portal | 15-05-2026 up to 5:00 pm |
| 5 | Last Date and Time for uploading Tender in Karnataka Public Procurement portal | 23-05-2026 up to 5:00 pm |
| 6 | Tentative Date and Time of Online Opening of Technical Bids | 25-05-2026 @ 10:00 am |
| 7 | Tentatively fixed date for opening of financial bid after verification of documents Submitted in technical bid Date and Time | 27-05-2026 @ 11:00 am |
| 8 | Place of opening of Tenders | Karnataka Public Procurement portal |
| 9 | Address for Communication | Office of the Director, Department of Women and Child Development, Anand Rao Circle, Bengaluru-560009 Karnataka, Phone:080-22353776 Email: directorwcd01@gmail.com jointdirector02@gmail.com |

**Sd/-**
**Director,**
**Dept. of Women and Child Development, Bengaluru**
DIPR/CP/600/CCL/2026-27

# Barcelona's Clasico victory seals its LaLiga coronation

Rashford and Torres score in the first half to help Flick's side clinch the league title in consecutive years; Arsenal's Arteta praises referee Kavanagh for disallowing a contentious West Ham equaliser

EURO LEAGUES

**Agencies**
BARCELONA

**Picture perfect:** Barcelona moved an unassailable 14 points clear with three matches remaining to clinch its 29th Spanish league title. REUTERS

Barcelona secured its 29th Spanish league title after beating Real Madrid 2-0 in the Clasico on Sunday.

Marcus Rashford and Ferran Torres struck in the first half to help Hansi Flick's side clinch LaLiga in consecutive years, while consigning Madrid to a trophy-less season.

Barca moved an unassailable 14 points clear of second-placed Los Blancos with three matches remaining.

This was only the second time the outcome of LaLiga has been decided directly by the result of a Clasico, with record 36-time champion Real Madrid winning its first title in 1932 after a draw with Barca.Madrid arrived at the match embroiled in chaos after midfielder Fede Valverde was ruled out with a head injury following a training ground scuffle with teammate Aurelien Tchouameni, who started.

Barca coach Flick received bad news before the game, with his father passing away, but took his place on the touchline regardless, to oversee his side's comfortable triumph.

"It has been a tough day. It started in the morning and I really, I'll never forget this day," Flick told fans on the pitch.

"I'm really proud about that we have such a team. I want to say thank you to everyone, thank you for everything, thanks for really fighting. I really appreciate that a lot."

### Milan in trouble

AC Milan slumped into a full-blown crisis after a 2-3 Serie A defeat at Atalanta put its Champions League return at risk, while Como qualified for Europe for the first time.

Meanwhile, Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta praised the courage of referee Chris Kavanagh for disallowing a West Ham United equaliser as his side snatched a 1-0 victory to move closer to securing the Premier League title.

Yet his crestfallen opposite number Nuno Espirito Santo called for an end to the confusion over incidents at corners as Callum Wilson's stoppage-time goal was ruled out for interference on 'keeper David Raya after a lengthy VAR check.

The Gunners were protecting the lead given to them by Leandro Trossard's first goal since December when West Ham won a corner.

"The referee and the VAR had a lot of courage to stop and analyse the action and give the opportunity to the referee to make the call," Arteta said.

"I think nobody would disagree that it is a clear foul because David has the ball almost in his hands and they don't allow him to do that and they take advantage to score the goal. It was an obvious error, it is a free kick and the goal has to be disallowed. Today I have realised how difficult and how big the referee's job is."

Espirito Santo was relatively calm despite the huge consequences of the decision that cost his side a precious point.

### Lack of consistency

"There is lots of blocking, grappling and holding and we don't understand what a foul is any more," the Portuguese said.

"It's a lack of consistency, everyone is confused."

**Top results: LaLiga:** Athletic Bilbao 0 lost to Valencia 1 (Sadiq 72); Real Oviedo 0 drew with Getafe 0; Barcelona 2 (Rashford 9, Torres 18) bt Real Madrid 0.
**Serie A:** AC Milan 2 (Pavlovic 88, Nkunku 90+4-pen) lost to Atalanta 3 (Ederson 7, Zappacosta 29, Raspadori 52); Parma 2 (Strefezza 47, Keita 87) lost toRoma 3 (Malen 22, 90+11-pen, Rensch 90+4).
**Bundesliga:** Mainz 1 (Becker 48) lost to Union Berlin 3 (Ilic 38, Burke 88, Juranovic 90+1); Cologne 1 (Buelter 10) lost to Heidenheim 3 (Schoeppner 8, 73, Ibrahimovic 28).

# Tushir showcases his prowess

WRESTLING

**Y.B. Sarangi**
NANDINI NAGAR (U.P.)

Former World junior bronze medallist Yash Tushir won the men's 74kg freestyle gold medal to underline his worth at the senior Open ranking wrestling tournament at the Nandini Nagar Mahavidyalaya campus on Monday.

Tushir, whose last international outing was a eighth place finish at the Asian championships two years ago before he suffered knee, shoulder, and toe injuries and went through six months rehab, made an impact as he got past five competitors with convincing wins. In the final, he overcame a stiff challenge from his Delhi State-mate Sourabh Sehrawat to register a 3-1 win.

As Sourabh presented his strong defence, 25-year-old Tushir earned points through pushouts and his opponent's passivity.

"Yash resumed his training two-three months back and it was good to see him win the gold," said Tushir's coach Anil Mann.

As freestyle bouts continued through Sunday night until Monday morning and resumed after a break up to lunchtime, Worlds silver medallist Deepak Punia outsmarted Vansh 10-0 to secure the 92kg yellow metal.

"I'm ready for the Asian Games. I'll request the WFI to consider my performance here for the trials," said Punia, whose weight class (92kg) is not part of the Asiad roster.

The Greco-Roman bouts were underway at the time of going to the press.

**The results: Men: Freestyle (finals): 57kg:** Sagar (Har) bt Rupesh (Har) by injury; **61kg:** Abhishek (Har) bt Bhuvnesh (SSCB) 8-6; **65kg:** Sawan Satish (Har) bt Udit (Har) 7-1; **70kg:** Anuj Kumar (Har) bt Tejveer Singh (UP) 11-1; **74kg:** Yash Tushir (Del) bt Sourabh Sehrawat (Del) 3-1; **79kg:** Naveen (Har) bt Sachin (Har) 7-0; **86kg:** Deepak (Har) bt Sahil Dalal (Har) by injury; **92kg:** Deepak Punia (Har) bt Vansh (Har) 10-0; **97kg:** Parthivraj (SSCB) bt Parveen Kumar (Har) 'by fall'; **125kg:** Shubham Dhillon (Har) bt Chirag (Har) 11-0.

**Close encounter:** Abhishek managed to overcome Bhuvnesh to claim the 61kg gold. SANDEEP SAXENA

**Making a point:** Vinesh feels that the WFI misinterpreted the timeline of her sabbatical and return to competition. SANDEEP SAXENA

# Vinesh insists she is eligible to compete

**Y.B. Sarangi**
NANDINI NAGAR

At the Nandini Nagar Mahavidyalaya here, where she rose to prominence in 2012 by winning her maiden National title at the age of 18, double Worlds bronze medallist Vinesh Phogat asserted that she was eligible to make a comeback at the senior Open ranking tournament but the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) prevented her in a 'pre-planned' way.

The Open Ranking venue, owned by former WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, attracted all the media attention as Vinesh, accompanied by her team, came here for pre-competition verification.

The WFI, which had served Vinesh a show-cause notice and rendered her ineligible to compete on the ground that she had not informed it six months prior to coming out of retirement, turned down her request.

After meeting WFI president Sanjay Singh, Vinesh tore into the national federation and blamed Brij Bhushan in his own backyard.

"I need time to explain in detail but how can you hold me guilty before that?" she said on Monday.

Vinesh said she informed the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) about her comeback in June 2025.

About her whereabouts failure, Vinesh said, "I apologised to the WADA. After missing one (on December 18), I was tested twice and cleared to participate in international events. I want a fair chance.

"It's pre-planned. Brij Bhushan is behind all this."

In a statement, Vinesh said the WFI 'misinterpreted' the timeline of her sabbatical and subsequent return to competition and she had the official confirmation from International Testing Agency (ITA) about her eligibility to compete from January 1, 2026. She released a document to back her claim.

Vinesh said her whereabouts failures did not amount to any anti-doping rule violations.

Sanjay said the WFI "didn't work in a pre-planned way. We will consider Vinesh's case after receiving her reply to the show-cause".




**Authorised Dealers: Bengaluru:** (J P Nagar): Karr Motor Ventures: 99007 74597; (Magadi Road): Karr Motor Ventures: 92205 04515; (Bannerghata Road): Karr Motor Ventures: 92205 04524; (HSR Layout): TAFE Access: 78742 23333; (St. Marks Road): TAFE Access: 78742 23333; (Sarjapur): TAFE Access: 78742 23333; (Off Hosur Road): TAFE Access: 95919 98570; (Mahadevpura): Raja Ganesh Motors: 72300 87090 / 96200 18618; (Brookefield): Raja Ganesh Motors: 72300 87090; (Bommasandra): Raja Ganesh Motors: 1800 2022 866 / 98804 95353; (Jakkur): PPS Motors: 88007 76947; (Sadashivanagar): PPS Motors: 88007 76947; (Mysore Road): PPS Motors: 88007 76947; (Rajajinagar): PPS Motors: 88007 76947; (Kalyan Nagar): PPS Motors: 88007 76947; (Hennur Road): PPS Motors: 88007 76947; (Sreerampura Okhlipuram): PPS Motors: 88007 76947; **Belgaum:** Raja Motors Corp: 80508 63045 / 80508 63048 / 80508 93561; **Hubballi:** Raja Motors Corp: 0836-2278555 / 80508 54183 / 80501 57899; **Davangere:** Raja Motors Corp: 80508 93564 / 80501 57907 / 83622 78555; **Mangalore:** TAFE Access: 78743 34444 / 93848 22472; **Mysore:** (Koorgalli Industrial Estate): Palace Škoda: 97422 08080; (New Kantharaj URS Road): Palace Škoda: 97422 08080; **Tumkur:** PPS Motors: 88007 76947; **Udupi:** TAFE Access: 78743 34444; **Shivammogga:** TAFE Access: 78743 34444 / 78742 23333; **Bellary:** PPS Motors: 88007 76947; **Gulbarga:** PPS Motors: 92811 13811; **Hassan:** Palace Škoda: 97422 08080

T&C Apply. #Ex-showroom price. The price listed is based on current prevailing rates and is subject to change without any prior notice. The Škoda Super Care programme is applicable to all new Škoda vehicles purchased on or after 1st January 2026. ^Each Škoda vehicle is covered by warranty for a period of 4 years or 100,000 km, whichever occurs earlier. ^^The 4 free services scheduled at 1,000 km, 7,500 km, 15,000 km and 30,000 km are limited to free labour charges only; all costs pertaining to parts, consumables and lubricants shall be borne by the customer. Roadside Assistance is subject to Škoda Assist's standard coverage areas and service terms. Škoda reserves the right to alter the details of specifications and service offerings without any prior notice. ^^^Sub-4 metre ICE vehicles, as per the BNCAP Rating. ˘Total benefits are applicable on select variants and models for a limited period and in limited quantities, and they differ from variant to variant. ◊Scrappage benefit can be availed on select variants only against Certificate of Deposit. Check with your nearest dealership for more information. ◊◊Selected variants available, stock subject to availability on CSD and GeM. Please refer to www.skoda-auto.co.in for more information. Images are for representation purposes only. Actual colour, features and specifications may vary. Above car picture is created with the help of computer graphics solely for the purpose of advertising. All disputes are subject to Mumbai court's jurisdiction only.